WEEK-END NEGRO ORGIES

To the Editor of The News-Age-Herald:

The feature in your Sunday edition, "What Negroes Are Doing," is one of which you and your readers of whatever color or social standing should be proud, especially as it is of a piece with your usual fair and generous attitude toward the Negro race. But there is another feature in your Monday edition very lightly publicized of which we should all, white and colored, be shocked and much ashamed, the week-end orgy of quarreling, violence and crime involving the colored people almost exclusively. Bham, Ala News

14

For reasons which seem good to him, the editor of The News puts this shocking record in a rather unimportant part of the paper, camouflaging it by a sort of slapstick comedy caption and serving the items up in a slumgullion mixture with cut-up raw meat and lots of red! For example, here is what we got last Monday: Caption, "Knives, Clubs, Bricks Flash and Fly Here Over Week-End," followed by the remark of a Hillman Hospital interne, "The emergency department of Hillman Hospital looks like a battle-aid station during the war." Sun. 7-6-47

Now it may be that highly colored publicity of these shocking affairs might be considered unfair to the great body of law-abiding and self-respecting Negroes. But, on the other hand, how about the implication that these bloody orgies are so casual and commonplace to their race as to deserve only six-by-four inches of space in The News columns?

Why not present the week-end horrors under the caption, "The Shame and Tragedy of the Colored Race"? Sun. 7-6-47

Homewood. DAVID WALLACE.

Negro Postman Admits Theft, Rifling Mail

The News
14
Birmingham, Ala

A Birmingham Negro postman is in County Jail today on charges of theft and rifling of mail.

Charles E. Breeding, 26, 3603 11th Avenue, North, was arraigned yesterday afternoon before U. S. Commissioner Louise O. Charlton.

C. H. Shubert, postoffice inspector, said Breeding had confessed taking money from letters addressed to patrons on his route in the Southwestern section of the city. Thurs. 10-2-47

Breeding has been a mail carrier since April 21 of this year. Shubert said the Negro claimed he had begun rifling mail only two weeks ago.

Breeding's bond was set at $500.

Negro Admits Setting Million Dollar Fire

(14) Thurs. 3-20-47

CLARKSDALE, MISS., March 19.—(AP)—Chief of Police C. S. Longino said today that Caesar Stokes, Negro employe of the Alcazar Hotel here, signed a statement saying he started a million dollar fire which swept downtown Clarksdale Sunday afternoon.

Longino and Fire Chief R. W. Maxwell said Stokes was arrested soon after the blaze and had been held for questioning since that time.

In the statement, Longino said, Stokes declared he had set the fire for revenge after being fired by Hotel Manager A. E. Defend. He said in the statement he had arrived at the hotel in a drunken condition and was fired. The hotel manager confirmed this information, Longino said. Thurs. 3-20-47

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6 Whites Freed in Home Burning

(14) arson

Afro American

Calif. Judge Dismisses Charges Against Gang

Baltimore, Md.

REDWOOD CITY, Calif.—Although a San Mateo County grand jury, last February, handed down indictments charging a gang of six white persons with conspiracy to commit arson, after the burning of a colored veteran's home here, cases of the six were recently dismissed before the gang was brought to trial.

County Judge Edmund Scott granted the dismissals at the request of Chief Deputy District Attorney A. N. Whitmore, who was assigned to prosecute the case, after the latter argued that the trial "would be an idle act, ending only in acquittal for the defendants."

Two Women in Gang

Indicted for the burning, during a rain storm, of Navy veteran John T. Walker's newly-built home, after he had received threatening letters about moving into a "white district" were Miss Madelyn Lenahan, her father, Frank Lenahan; John B. Arlotti and his wife, Edith; Henry Harkins and Joseph Johnson.

The sudden decision of the prosecutor to ask dismissal of the case is being challenged by several civic organizations, leaders of which point out that Miss Lenahan admitted writing Walker a threatening note and remarking that he would never live in his new house, prior to the burning.

Firebug tells urge to see "fire things"

Los Angeles, Cal. [illegible]

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—"Just to see the fire things rush by", Daniel Evans, 24, started at least 14, and maybe 25, fires, he admitted to police last week. Evans told arresting officers, "I would just get drunk and get an urge to start a fire". He had previously been arrested and served a 12-month probated sentence for malicious assault and robbery.

Sat. 6-21-47

Arsonist Blamed For 31 Fires

(14) Sat. 6-21-47

Louisville, Ky. Defender

Accused in 31 cases of arson, the largest number on record against a single person, Daniel Earl Evans, 24, 310 E. Bloom, is scheduled to appear in Police Court Friday to answer the charges.

Following a tour last Tuesday of numerous fire spots that have occurred here in the last six months, Evans admitted to Capt. Harold Foster, of the Fire Prevention Bureau, that he had set fire to more than 15 of the places. Total damage in the blazes was estimated at $25,000. Sat. 6-21-47

Evans was arrested June 7 at the scene of one fire which he admitted starting in addition to four others earlier the same evening.

ADMITS HE SET COSTLY FIRE

arson (14) Afro-American

CLARKSDALE, Miss. — Caesar Stokes, bell hop, has confessed he started the million-dollar fire which destroyed a hotel and business houses here Mar. 16.

Negro Woman Held On Arson Charge

Atlanta Daily World

(14) Atlanta, Ga

9-27-47

L. L. Gwaltney, Jr., state fire marshal, announced yesterday the "confession and arrest," of Theoney Crowell, 29-year-old Negro woman, at Andalusia, following an investigation of a "suspicious fire" at the home of Cedell Crowell. According to Gwaltney, the Negro woman admitted to State Deputy Fire Marshal Thomas J. Hall, that she set fire to the house she and her husband owned and were living in at the time.

According to Gwaltney, the women gave no particular reason for causing the fire, except to say that she and her husband were having "domestic troubles." Gwaltney said $800 insurance on household contents was carried by the Negro woman, while $600 was carried by her husband on the house. Sat.

The warrant charging the woman with first degree arson was sworn out by Sheriff Tom Head, and in default of bond, she was admitted to the Covington County jail.

Michigan Holds Three Seeking Hidden Fortune

(14)

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

U.S. Continues Search For Wealth Mob Couldn't Find

Sat. 3-15-47

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—While Chicago mobsters were torturing a 53-year-old man in an effort to make him reveal the location of an alleged sugar black market fortune, police raided a rooming house here Sunday, capturing three of the four hijackers.

Taken into custody were Herbert Foreman, alias Money Slim, 28, 6225 Ada st.; Raymond Lewis, 28, 9 W. 35th st., and Wallington Earst, 36, 5304 Prairie ave., all of Chicago.

The fortune sought by the Chicago mobsters reportedly consisted of $38,000 in cash and some jewelry, allegedly belonging to Broadway Arrington, recently indicted as one of the leaders of the second of two black market sugar stamp rings operating on a national scale from Chicago.

Arrington and William Abernathy, also indicted for illegal trafficking in stolen sugar stamps worth 10,000,000 pounds of sugar, are joint owners of the Joy Box Tavern at 3810 State st., in Chicago. Sat. 3-15-47

Arrington is reported to have brought a tool chest containing the fortune to this city Wednesday, following his indictment in Chicago, for safekeeping with his father, George, 53, who operates a rooming house at 57 Buckley st.

Sunday morning the four men, one of them serving as a lookout, forced their way into the rooming house, rounded up the 12 roomers and made a systematic search of the 16-room building.

Unable to locate the tool chest the men took the older Arrington to the basement where they built a fire and began to torture the old man in an effort to make him talk.

Meanwhile, Mrs. [illegible] Johnson, [illegible] Federal st., Chicago, the elder Arrington's daughter-in-law, escaped from a window and notified police.

Spotting the police, the lookout, said to be Joe, owner of a livery fleet in Chicago, sped off in the car, leaving his companions to be captured by police as they tried to escape from a basement window.

Lt. Walter W. Coe said the captured men confessed the plot and told him they learned of the money's existence from "Look Up" Bell, who said he was with Broadway Arrington when the fortune was brought to this city from Chicago.

Raymond L. McClory, head of the crimnial division of the United State's attorney's office in Chicago, directed local police to continue a search for the fortune, though both Arringtons have denied that it exists.

Federal authorities are also checking on the backgrounds of the men in custody to ascertain if they had any connection with either of the two black market sugar rings. Sat. 3-15-47

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2 Undercover Agents Testify At Court Trial

(14) Black Market

Defender, Chicago Ill

Sat. 10-25-47

Evidence Brings 'Big Jim' Winters 18-Month Sentence

How two Negro OPA undercover agents secured evidence leading to the breakup of a nation-wide counterfeit sugar coupon ring, was disclosed in the courtroom of Federal Judge Walter J. LaBuy Friday. Defender

Their testimony came in the trial before Judge LaBuy of James "Big Jim" Winters (white), 34, and Robert Bailey, 30. Winters was sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary by Judge LaBuy Friday and a probation investigation was ordered for Bailey.

The two OPA agents, Donald Pearman, 47, and James Tarter, both of New York City, told how they worked with the gang and watched the transfer of counterfeit sugar stamps worth thousand of pounds of black market sugar.

Chicago, Ill.

Attends Southside Meeting

Pearman told the court of attending a meeting between Winters and Yancey Bridgeforth, 44, in a Southside apartment during which Winters gave Bridgeforth three envelopes containing 6,000 counterfeit coupons. At a meeting between the men last February in an apartment at 9524 S. Stewart ave., Pearman testified, Bridgeforth paid $1,350 to Winters for the sugar stamps. Sat.

The following day the men met again, according to Pearman, and Winters boasted he had stamps made on "government paper" and was willing to dispose of 100,000 of them for five cents each. Bridgeforth, according to the testimony, complained of the price, and the men agreed that they would be sold for four cents.

During the same meeting, Bridgeforth asked the undercover agent if he knew where a good engraver could be located, as he had a supply of government paper suitable for printing currency. Pearman said he promised to find such a man. (14) Black Market

Introduced OPA Men

Bridgeforth was arrested Jan. 10 on other sugar charges while he was acting as a go-between for the government. It was he who introduced the OPA agents as relatives. The agents were strictly undercover and no one knew of their activities except the chief of the special agent branch in Chicago. Defender, Chicago, Ill.

Tartar, who was also present at the meeting between Bridgeforth and Winters, corroborated Pearman's testimony. Sat. 10-25-47

Winters denied any knowledge that the stamps involved were counterfeit. The stamps, according to Winters, came from "Hank" Thomas, a friend of both Bridgeforth and him, who "hung around" a filling station at Garfield blvd. and Wabash ave.

Bailey, in his testimony, also denied any knowledge of the transactions, but admitted he drove Winters to the meetings in his own car.

Edwards not insane; just a liar, says psychiatrist

Los Angeles, Calif. Tribune

(14)

The affair of Charles Edwards, who is getting top billing these days as "Central avenue's gay masquerader", took four new turns this week as he appeared before superior court judge Edward R. Brand: Sat. 1-11-47

He was declared sane; and not only that, but had the humiliating experience of hearing himself called—not the victim of a mysterious brain ailment causing his erratic behaviours, but a "pathological liar; and his bail was lowered from $10,000 to $2500; and his hair was dyed a deeper red.

Usually talkative, Edwards let his new counsel, Central avenue lawyer Walter L. Gordon Jr., do the talking this time. Gordon submitted Edwards' case on transcript of the preliminary hearing and made a brief plea before the court. Date of sentence was set for Jan. 16.

Edwards, who hoodwinked Hollywood big shots and jived members of his own community who might have known better, is charged with impersonating a G-man, stealing official records, illegally wearing a discharg button and setting himself up to practice law with phony documents.

County psychiatrist Marcus Graham, the man who stripped the gloss off Edwards and called him just a liar, testified he was sane and not suffering from a brain tumor, as had previously been claimed. There is a calcified area in the frontal part of Edwards' brain, Crahan said; but it is not the cause of his erratic behaviour.

"The man is just a pathological liar," Dr. Crahan said.

Gordon, who rarely overlooks a bet in presenting the better side of his clients, told the court, while apparently admitting Edwards' guilt to the charges, that:

"This man has harmed himself more than he has harmed others".

—"He never used his false masquerade to cheat or gain money. On the contrary he has done some good." Sat. 1-11-47

It was the good Edwards has done which propelled people toward him to be taken in by his masquerades, Gordon said. Among the good things Edwards has done, according to his lawyer, are: to organize traffic safety programs in schools, youth groups and to take part in YMCA work.

Edwards to San Quentin Monday

Los Angeles Tribuna

Sat. 3-1-47

(14) Calif.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Shuffling off to San Quentin prison Monday to begin a term of 5 to 14 years, Charles J. Edwards, 28-year-old Eastside youth whom authorities shook out of a dream world he had built for himself, will have one comforting thought: he won't have to face federal charges of impersonating an FBI officer and of illegal wearing an Army discharge button.

According to William Ritzi, chief criminal deputy U. S. attorney, "justice has been done inasmuch as Edwards was found guilty of the state charges." They involved forgery and theft of public records. Sentenced, on a plea of guilty, by superior court judge Edward R. Brand Thursday of last week, Edwards was refused probation and denied leniency by the jurist who contradicted the arguments of Edwards' defense attorney that the fanciful young man had not schemed to get undue advantages for himself. Edwards had tried to lie his way into an appointment as assistant U. S. district attorney and as an OPA officer, Judge Brand revealed.

Defense attorney Walter L. Gordon Jr. said his client took his stiff sentence philosophically. The youth's mother, redheaded, thin Mrs. Margaret Edwards also took her son's fate with comparative calm, Gordon said. He said he escorted her to the county jail Thursday to see her son and she bore up well. Sat. 3-1-47

Edwards, ever resourceful, asked him to get him out to enlist in the Army, Gordon said; but the lawyer discouraged this because he didn't think Charles would be accepted. He said Edwards would be eligible for parole after serving two years of his sentence.

Made the dupes of the mariny-colored youth with the wide, innocent eyes and disarming grin were many prominent citizens, including the best known lawyer in the state, Jerry Giesler, officials of the State Bar and others.

Edwards, who for years had figured in every movement or in group of any importance in the community, had pulled his biggest coup, beginning in 1945 when he began posing as a lawyer. Request by a Central avenue attorney for an investigation of his status led to his arrest. Sat. 3-1-47

STAR FALLS IN HOLLYWOOD:

Master Impersonator Given 5 to 14 Years

Afro-American - Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 3-15-47

14

LOS ANGELES—"The most fabulous masquerader of all time," Charles (Chuck) Edwards, 28, who as a "Cuban" lawyer hobnobbed for two years with stars and other prominent figures of Hollywood, on Monday began to serve a 5-14-year sentence for forgery and theft of public records.

Continuing his lucky streak, however, he managed to evade Federal charges of impersonating an FBI officer and illegally wearing an Army discharge button, two of the acts which led to his description as the "master impersonator." Sat. 3-15-47

Declaring that "justice had been done inasmuch as Edwards was found guilty of the State charges," William Ritzi, chief criminal deputy U.S. attorney, stated that the Federal counts would be dropped.

May Get Out in Two Years

In passing sentence on Edwards, who had pleaded guilty, Superior Court Judge Edward Brand stated that he refused probation and denied clemency, as requested by defense counsel, because the youth had acted generally for personal gain.

However, according to Walter J. Gordon Jr., attorney for Edwards, his client will be eligible for parole after serving two years of his sentence. Both Edwards and his mother, Mrs. Margaret Edwards, took the sentence calmly.

Investigation after the arrest of the personable young man on Oct. 31 revealed that during his two-year "career" he had posed as a deputy sheriff, police captain, lawyer, Government cameraman, Army captain and draft board member. Sat. 3-15-47

An Intimate of Stars

In those roles, it was shown, he became friendly with many of Hollywood's leading stars, especially those interested in interracial affairs, with which he had concerned himself particularly.

It was said at the time of his arrest that Edwards had worked with Orson Welles, with Bette Davis in the Hollywood Canteen, and with Bing Crosby and his radio program.

Pictures Prove Friendship

Pictures found on him at the time of his arrest attested to warm friendships with Carmen Miranda, Victor Mature, Van Johnson, Sabu, Lina Romay, Jerry Geisler, noted attorney, and Carey McWilliams. Sat. 3-15-47

Also on his person were found membership cards in the Ku Klux Klan, the Communist Party, Knights of Columbus, B'Nai B'rith and the Gerald L. K. Smith organization, all of which he said he had joined to see how they worked and to learn how to combat them.

14 1947 General

Afro-American

14

GI to Be Given Civilian Trial

Sat- 8-16-47

Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON-(NNPA).—Under present War Department policy, any soldier, who is accused of crime or offense committed within the geographical limits of the States or the District of Columbia, and punishable by the law of the land, will be surrendered to civil authorities for trial.

The War Department made this relevation recently in connection with the case of Pfc. Herbert L. Archer Jr., who is being held in Jail at Leesburg, Ga., on a charge of attempted assault on a woman aboard a passenger train en route from Chanute Field, Ill., to Mac Dill Field, Fla.

Sat. 8-16-47

Charged With Assault

Army investigators were told by the Solicitor General of Leesburg, County that Archer is being held under a warrant charging attempt at criminal assault which is a felony in Georgia. A grand jury will be convened and will return against him either a "true bill or "no bill."

Change in Army regulations concerning the surrender of soldiers accused of crime to civilian authorities became effective Mar. 16, 1946. During the war the Army usually refused to surrender military personnel to civilian authorities.

14 1947

General

MAJOR CRIMES UP IN 1946 TO 1,685,203

The Times

14

Hoover of FBI Says Total Was Worst in Decade, With One Done Every 18.7 Seconds

New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, March 5—A major crime was committed in the United States on the average of once every 18.7 seconds alst year. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said today. Thur. 3-6-47

In a report estimating that principal crimes reached a total of 1,685,203, Mr. Hoover said that every 5.7 minutes during 1946, there was a murder, manslaughter, rape, or assault to kill. The 1,685,203 major crimes were not only the greatest number in ten years, but were also 119,662 more than in 1945, according to the survey.

During the average day, thirty-six persons were slain, thirty-three raped and 185 others feloniously assaulted. Every day also brought 172 robberies, 981 burglaries, 630 automobile thefts and 2,580 miscellaneous larcenies.

The only decline in major offenses between 1945 and 1946 was a 4.8 per cent decrease in automobile thefts; nevertheless, twenty-six cars were stolen every hour last year, the majority by youths of 20 and under.

Mr. Hoover's study was based on monthly FBI reports from more than 2,200 cities, with a combined population of above 67,000,000.

Between 1945 and 1946, murders and non-negligent manslaughter rose 23.3 per cent; robbery, 15.7; rape, 5.0; aggravated assault, 12.9; larceny 8.8; burglary, 11.3.

The major crimes in 1946 were divided into: Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, 8,42; negligent manslaughter, 4,701; rape, 12,117; robbery, 62,782; aggravated assault, 67,512; burglary, 357,991; larceny, 941,738; auto theft, 229,920.

Many miscellaneous serious offenses were not included in the total. Thur. 3-6-47

RALPH McGILL

Atlanta Constitution

This May Be of Comfort

Atlanta, Ga.

14 gen.

Wed-7-2-47

Almost every day now one of our deeper thinkers rises and delivers himself of a Jeremiah-like prophecy of ruin, violence and doom.

I don't feel too good about things, but we are doing generally better than we did after World War I.

I am aware of the fact that crime is, as they say, rampant; that murder and rape seem to occur with greater frequency than ever before, and that racial tensions are generally believed at a desperate stage.

I don't feel too good about things. As a Democrat I think the political stupidity of the Southern Democrats, notably those in South Carolina and Georgia, have assured the Democratic Party of at least twice times seven long, lean years. It would have been a sensible move to take in the qualified Negro voters, and only the qualified ones, but they now have been driven into the Republican Party. An FEPC Republican move next year will be entirely political. The same Republicans who support it refuse to assist with farm measures and housing bills which would benefit Negroes enormously, especially since most of the Negroes are in the South and most of them on farms.

Error

This will consolidate Republican strength in the key States and it is my idea we are in for a pretty bad time of it, politically. I expect to live enough years and to have the men responsible for the Southern political error to admit it, but there will be scant comfort in saying "I told you so."

There might be time yet, but the pattern seems to be cut and shortsightedness refuses to admit even qualified Negroes of character and standing. It is useless to argue, because when men become angry they lose their perspective and refuse to face, or see, things as they really are. But we in the South, I am afraid, are in for a rather bad time of it across a good stretch of years. We will repent in leisure. It is very difficult to learn the lesson that you cannot add a moral wrong to your burden and win a race, a war or a campaign. All this is my own particular Jeremiad.

January, 1919

Beginning in January of 1919, the United States experienced a period of violence and crime which makes the crime of today seem mild. The strikes of that time were more numerous and attended by flying squadrons which attacked and injured many, killing a few.

This period of violence was filled also with crime, in which attacks on women, murders with queer and perverted angles, mistreatment of children and a great increase in burglaries and holdups played a part. This was done all over the nation.

It was by no means a brief span.

It was in September of 1919 that the police of Boston struck. By 11 p. m. on the night of Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1919, there was not a policeman on duty anywhere in Boston.

It was a night of horror. Hoodlums and thieves openly broke windows of stores and helped themselves. Some merchants stood with guns to guard their property.

It continued all through the night. There was assault, murder and robbery and daylight did not halt it. Open robbery continued in broad daylight. Voluntary police were assaulted. License ran wild.

The militia were called out. The rioters and thieves attacked them.

Wed-7-2-47

Fear

It was a period which still should trouble us—because in every city there lurks this quota of violent men and women. In too many human minds the restraining thread is all too fragile.

Inflation was bad. Rents went beyond reason.

There was as much fear of Russia then as now. The fear took a ridiculous, yet fearful turn of "Red hunting." Innocent persons were smeared, as some are smeared now by Congressmen who calls anyone a Communist who wants to tear down a slum or see to it that medical care is available to all the people who need it.

Sixteen packages of dynamite bombs and 34 "infernal" machines were sent through the mails to prominent men. Atty. Gen. Palmer's house was wrecked by a bomb. The homes of the Mayor of Cleveland and Justice Alfred Hayden, of Massachusetts, were dynamited. A bomb partially destroyed the residence of Judge C. C. Nott in New York City.

Wall Street

A few minutes before noon, Sept. 16, 1920, a horse-drawn wagon pulled up before the United States Subtreasury opposite the offices of J. P. Morgan Company, on Wall Street.

About five minutes later it blew up. A wall of flame swept up the street. Persons six stories up had their hair and faces burned by flames that licked in windows. Thirty-eight persons were killed, hundreds were injured, 57 of them seriously.

To this day no one knows who did it.

Racial tensions were bad. On Feb. 17, 1919, a large body of colored troops, marching up Broadway on return from France, were cheered. That was the last time.

Four months later street fighting broke out in Washington, D. C., and lasted for several days.

In July a race riot began which lasted three days, in which 36 persons were killed. Equally serious trouble occurred in Arkansas and St. Louis.

Prohibition came along with a veritable harvest of crime and disregard for law. Bribery, corruption of city and county governments, city gangs and gang warfare flourished like the proverbial green bay tree.

We have trouble enough today. The international outlook is dismal, but not hopeless. But people everywhere are afraid and feel insecure. Nevertheless, we are doing a better job today than before.

Our great failure seems to be that we can use our minds to invent atomic bombs, directed missiles, to write great books, music and to create magnificent things. Wed-7-2-47

Yet in our personal relationships we fail miserably.

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

The Need For Alarm

Members of the Fulton County grand jury are gravely concerned about the high incidence of crime in Atlanta and Fulton County. Any right thinking person or group has a right to be alarmed. For it is not merely the high incidence, but likewise the nature and intensity of the crime, which is demanding notice. 14 Tues. 7-8-47

Taking our cue alone from the slayings and other forms of violent crime from among our own racial composition, we are prepared to state that we have reached the flood waters, and unless something is done quickly to stem the tide, life is going to be too risky for any Negro citizen in Atlanta.

Look at the verdict already chalked up for the first six months of the year—fifty-five Negroes, slain by other Negroes—and before the ink dries from reporting one, another takes place. Women stabbing women to death, women shooting the husbands, common-law mates, together with many other varied hodge-podge duelling, we get the picture of what is happening before our very eyes.

The preachers can help some by taking time out in their messages, but they cannot cure it. The teachers can help some by starting with the young ones, but that will be a long process and we cannot wait that long. The homes can help some, but most of the slayers do not receive much of that sort of instruction, just as they do not go to church and school. So that the one solution and cure which can be used at once, is to have more stringent law enforcement and appoint Negro policemen who will put down the spirit of violence and rowdism. "A life for a life" is still not an outmoded form of punishment for such violence. Tues. 7-8-47

Enormity Of Crime Wave Among Atlanta Negroes Worries World Reporter

14 Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Tues. 7-8-47

By CLAUDE L. WEAVER

What can be done to stop the crime wave among Atlanta Negroes? This question should be of concern to every Atlantan, white and black alike, for its reflection goes farther than that of the individual involved. Sooner or later it will affect the lives of all Atlantans, in some way or another.

The yearly toll of homicidal deaths among us has already reached the staggering total of 56, notwithstanding the innumerable acounts of assaults, robberies, burglaries and other vices.

One might voice the opinion that "Oh, I will never become involved. Why should I be concerned?" Regardless of how well we carry ourselves or how well we pick our associates, we never know when we might become victims of circumstances. We know not what our destiny holds.

GRAND JURY ALARMED

Recent reports reveal that our county grand jury has become alarmed over the situation. They, too, would like to know what can be done. They surmise that an "aroused public" would be the greatest deterrent against crime. The jury condemned indeterminate sentencing of prisoners and called for law requiring testimony by defendant under oath. Out of the 195 indictments returned during the June session 12 were for murder, 11 for rape, and 75 for major thefts. (Statistics reveal that a majority of these indictments involved Negroes)

The jury expressed belief that in light of the many murders that occurred, most of them occured with little or no provocation.

Church and newspapers can also aid in the alleviating the crime, reported the jury. Moreover, the clearance of slums will also act as a deterrent, for more crimes are committed in these areas, the jury stated. Tues. 7-8-47

Recently the Atlanta Christian Council, Georgia Interracial Commission, other civic organizations, and the daily newspapers have voiced approval of Negro police. This materialization would certainly act as a deterrent to the crime wave. Negroes are generally indifferent to white police when one of their color is involved. This stand is usually taken for fear of being called an "Uncle Tom" or a "white man's stooge." Negro policemen would be more familiar with the behavioristic pattern of their race.

Credit must be given to white police, however, for their percentage of solving Negro crimes is commendable. Nevertheless, the fact remains that corrective measures must be taken before the crime occurs if the wave of crime among us is to be alleviated.

NEGRO JURORS

One city detective has advanced the opinion that perhaps an all-Negro jury could bring about a solution. "White jurors appear indifferent to cases involving solely Negroes," remarked the detective. "To them it is apparently "another Negro killing" and usually they impose light sentences."

Chief Clerk Charles Hartsfield Fulton Superior Court, pointed out that if Negroes could hold their number of assaults and murders in check, crime among them would be at a minimum. Tues. 7-8-47

Assistant Solicitors of Fulton Superior Court agree also that white jurors are too lenient with Negro crimes. The solicitors must also be given credit, for they prosecute cases involving Negroes with every fiber of their body.

A city officer believes that crimes could be held at a minimum among Negroes if they would abstain from drinking "cheap wines and bootleg whiskey." This "stuff" seems to run them "crazy," said the officer.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The slum-clearance-drive would definitely be an asset to the drive of alleviating crime—that is, if more habitable quarters are built to replace the condemned ones. Eradicating one slum-only to discover that another is emerging elsewhere would be to little avail.

Another factor that inhances the crime wave is loitering around beer joints, street corners, etc. One has only to realize this by walking down Auburn Avenue, between Fort and Bell Streets— that is, if he is able to get through. The Hunter Street loiterers play their part also.

If proper home training, Christian living and democracy could be gotten over to the Atlanta populace these other factors would be imaginary.

Last but not least is the factor of proper recreational facilities. The city has fallen down on the job there when one realizes that out of approximately 125,000 Negroes living within the city, only one meager facilitated park has been provided.

If there is to be noticeable alleviation among Negro crime, all of these factors are to be considered and corrected. Extracting one rottten apple from a barrel where others are left will not assure the future quality of the remains.

Atlanta Has 2nd Highest Crime Rate in Southland

14 Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

ATLANTA — After ignoring crime statistics by the U.S. Justice Department for years, and exhibiting callous indifference towards a current upsurge of hoodlumism and juvenile delinquency, white Atlantans are now obsessed with a criminal nightmare intensified by two lurid murders yet unsolved. Sat. 8-30-47

The record shows that Atlanta is the second highet crime-ridden city in the South, and, signifiicantly, the blame can't be laid to the alleged criminal tendencies of its colored population.

1946 Crime Facts

In 1946. there were 97 murders in the city and 59 in Fulton County of which it is part. There were 351 cases of aggravated assault; and 20 of criminal attacks.

Only Houston (population, 510,397) had more crimes of violence among cities in the South in 1946 than Atlanta (population, 442,294).

Move to Guard Homes

The increased sales in guns and other protective weapons for the homes, installation of double locks on doors, instructions to maids on how to treat strangers, all point to a state of fear and terrorism among the citizens of caste and repute. Sat. 8-30-47

Other facts revealed in tracing the current crime wave show that most of Atlanta's delinquents are from well-to-do homes from the finest residential neighborhood, the Northside.

Police Inefficient

An estimated fourth fo the police fourth were Ku Klux Klansmen in 1946, who loafed in stores when presumably on duty. Many are considered poorly educated, surly, and undisciplined.

Young white hoodlums prowl the streets nightly in cars and offer women indecent proposals. Attempted criminal attacks are frequent. Police bungling in the cases of two murdered patrons has made white Atlantans grisly aware of the menace at hand.

M. L. ST. JOHN

Times

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Crime Centers and Child Prisoners

New York, N.Y.

Web 12-24-47

As might be expected, Fulton County led Georgia in the number of crimes during the past fiscal year. And, as might be expected, the larger cities of the State furnished the most criminals in the State's prisons. These facts are revealed in the annual report of the State Department of Correction just released by Director Charles Williams. Fulton County sent 361 persons to the State prisons for felony crimes and 824 for misdemeanor crimes. These do not include the persons who paid fines or who were given probated sentences.

Ranking next to Fulton, Muscogee County sent 107 persons to State prisons for felony crimes. Bibb sent 95, Chatham 90, and Richmond was low among the big-city counties with only 36. On misdemeanor crimes, Chatham ranked second to Fulton, having 205. Bibb had 136, Muscogee 118, Ware 63, Spalding 38, and Richmond again ranked very low with 37.

New York, N.Y. Wed 12-24-47.

Some Send None

Nine counties failed to send any persons to the State prisons during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, Williams said. This does not necessarily mean that these counties were free of crimes. Their law violators may have been permitted to pay a fine or serve their terms on probation outside of the State prison walls, or they may have had some unsolved crimes. Generally speaking, however, it means they had the best record in Georgia.

Those counties failing to send any person at all to State prison were:

Baker, Banks, Brantley, Butts, Glascock, Lincoln, Marion, Taliaferrio and Towns.

The following counties sent no persons to the State prisons for violating the felony laws, the more serious types of crimes: Baker, Banks, Brantley, Butts, Clinch, Glascock, Lincoln, Marion, Miller, Oconee, Quitman, Schley, Stewart, Taliaferro, Towns, Turner, Union, Webster and Wheeler.

The following counties sent no persons to the State prisons for violating misdemeanor laws:

Atkinson, Baker, Banks, Brantley, Butts, Camden, Forsyth, Glascock, Hart, Jasper, Jenkins, Lamar, Lincoln, Long, Marion, Taliaferrio, Taylor, Towns, Twiggs, White and Wilkinson.

Crime School

The report showed that prison life is not conducive to making good citizens out of boys and girls. The State's penal reform program first separated the juveniles as best as possible at Tattnall Prison. Then, about a year ago, it set up an "honor camp" for the boys and girls under 18 years of age. To the unguarded "honor camp" at Battey Hospital go those well-behaved juveniles to work the hospital farm and prepare meals for the patients. This camp has a fine vocational training program and a fine sports program, and is far removed from the prison camp atmosphere of Tattnall. But this camp is not large enough to care for all the boys and girls who should be there. It cares for about 150.

The report showed that many youths stay in crime once they go to prison. Of 143 white boys under 18 years of age sent to prison last year, 45 were repeaters. Of 11 white girls, five were repeaters. The ratio of repeaters among Negroes showed 62 repeaters among 268 boys, and 10 repeaters among 41 girls. There were a total of 463 children sent to prison in Georgia during the year.

Director Williams joins Director Lon Sullivan of the Georgia Citizens Council in urging that the home life of the boys and girls be improved so they will not fall into crime.

Construction Report

When the State started reforming its prison system during the Arnall administration, it first had to start spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to build an adequate State prison. Williams reports that that building program has been completed.

"At the present time we have facilities on the prison reservation which will properly house all the necessary employees of the institutions, and we have barns and other structures which are adequate in every detail for the proper handling of livestock, poultry and horses and mules," said Williams.

Brother, Sister Marry in N. J.

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

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Couple Aware of Ties, Held on Two Charges

Sat. 4-26-47

CAMDEN, N.J.—The odd story of the marriage of a brother and sister—held on charges of incest and perjury—was unfolded in police court here last week.

The incest charges were filed against Ernest Latta and Margaret Latta, who were married on April 5.

They were charged with perjury after evidence produced by an aunt, Mrs. Catherine Mangum of Westport, Conn., invalidated their testimony that they had not known of their kinship before marriage.

The brother and sister were brought into court on complaint of Mrs. Mangum, who testified that they were children of her sister who died in a mental institution. Sat. 4-26-47

Mr. Latta, the father of the couple, died when they were very young, after which they were placed in foster homes by the State Board of Children's Guardians. Both knew, however, that they were brother and sister, Mrs. Mangum declared.

Testimony was given in court that, notwithstanding this fact, Ernest and Margaret began living together as man and wife in Jan., 1946, at 806 Chestnut St., here.

The couple visited another aunt, Mrs. Irene Tinsley, in Richmond, Va., last Christmas season. Mrs. Mangum and other relatives, also visiting at the Richmond home, pointed out to them that they had no right to live as man and wife in view of their relationship.

The couple was charged with perjury after they testified under examination by their attorney, Edward Katman, that they did not learn of the existing circumstances until after marriage. Sat. 4-26-47

Dr. David Helm, acting Director of Health here, produced records from the Bureau of Vital Statistics showing that both had answer- "No" to a marriage application question of relationship.

Mrs. Mangum learned of the couple's intention to wed from friends here, who notified her when their names appeared in the marriage license column of a newspaper. Afro-American

She arrived here three days after she was notified, too late to prevent the ceremony. She went to the Bureau of Vital statistics, obtained all necessary information, and then filed charges with the police. Baltimore, Md

The couple are being held in custody pending grand jury action in the case. They have been ordered separated until the case is decided in court.

HANGING WAS A LARK, BUT:

Afro-American

Sordid Domestic Case Revolts 'Tough' Scribe

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 6-14-47

14

By MAE MORRIS

BALTIMORE

Me? I'm supposed to be tough. I stifled a yawn while watching a guy swing from the gallows. Eastern Shore lynch mobs never scared me, nor did a blast which killed 149 other people.

But something in my stomach played hop-skotch, Tuesday, when that mother crashed down the steps in a dead faint. and the daughter, staggering beneath the weight of an unborn child reportedly sired by the father, lumbered forward crying, "Mama! Mama!"

Her Neglect Responsible

Added to the screams of this pitiful 16-year-old girl, were the cries of her younger brother and sister. Sat. 6-14-47

All were rushing toward the prostrate form ot the woman whose neglect of them helped create the nauseating situation.

"Oh, Mama, my mama! I want my mother," sobbed the girl, her figure swollen with the baby she expects in a few weeks.

An elder half-sister, who refused to hide from anyone her hatred for the partially-blind man her mother married, grabbed the hysterical girl in her arms, saying:

"Hush, hush. I'll take care of you."

2-Year Sentence Suspended

A moment before, she had whispered, "Oh, God," as the mother heard Judge Charles E. Moylan pronounce a two-year sentence for staying with a boy friend while her family disintegrated. The sentence was later suspended and the woman given another chance. Court officials revived her.

The half-blind father must yet stand trial on charges of incest.

Such cases are infrequent in police records, although two have come to light this month.

"I did the washing, ironing and cooking, and she (the pregnant girl) helped me," the near sightless man testified after being led to the stand.

"Where was your wife?" asked the judge.

"She was out in the street most of the time," the man said. Because he is under indictment, he was not allowed to testify regarding the alleged incest.

Nor was the girl whose disfigured body racked with such sobs of shame and despair that she had to be taken off the witness stand.

Policewoman Violet Hill Whyte testified, however, that the younger sister reported hearing her father in their room at night, and overhearing the older sister saying, "Let me alone. Please, let me alone."

"You always upheld that man in his dirt," the half-sister said she told her mother after learning of the young girl's condition.

Her Father's Status Not Known

"Is your father living?" asked the judge.

"Yes," answered the young woman, who is married herself and has two children.

"Divorced?" the judge wanted to know. Sat. 6-14-47

"I don't know. I never questioned my mother about it," the young woman said.

Judge Reprimands Mother

"You, this poor girl's own mother, staying out in the street, never bothering to protect her. Instead of being home, you were out setting a bad example," the judge told the mother of the family.

"I only stayed out two nights a week," the small black-haired woman said. "One night, it was 2 o'clock, and nobody would let me in but my boy."

"Why would any child have to wake up 2 o'clock in the morning and let his mother in?" Judge Moyland asked her.

She bowed her head and did not answer. It developed that she received $130 a month from the welfare department although she had a job and was given about $8 a week by the boy friend who lived around the corner.

"Where did you think your mother was when she didn't come home?" Judge Moylan asked the younger girl who is supposed to have witnessed the nocturnal visits of the father to their room.

"Mama told me she was working all night," the child answered.

'Take Me Out of Courts,' I Beg

I looked at her. She has long hair, her eyes are a pretty brown. So are the eyes of the pregnant girl who had hoped to go to college. Incest

And the entire revolting picture of such family decay and incestuous implications made me rush back to the office, holding my topsy-turvy stomach, and saying:

"Boss, you gotta take me out of the courts. My nerves are shot!"

SERIOUS CASE OF INCEST:

Only 7 When Seduced by Father, Says Girl, 21

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 3-29-47

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — From out of the Southwest comes this story just revealed to police of how a 45-year-old man, father of nine, children, has been having intimate relations with his own daughter for some 10 or 13 years.

Last week, the girl, who is 21, said she could not stand more of her father's treatment and decided that the best thing to do was to get the police. This would solve everything, even her father's threat to kill her if she ever told.

According to the young woman, whose name and family is being withheld by the police, her father first took advantage of her when she was seven years old.

The incident made her ill. The relationship continued with regular and daily occurrences.

The girl said the relationship was carried on with her mother's full awareness, though not her consent. Sat. 3-29-47

The father has been married since 1922 and refused to let the girl have any male associates. One time he threatened to kill the entire family if anyone told. Father and son fought once about the matter, it is reported. The girl has one child by her father.

Father of nine arrested for 14 years' of incest

Los Angeles, Calif. Tribune

14

Sat. 3-15-47

SAN ANTONIO—A father, who unhesitatingly, if sullenly, admitted to regular sexual intercourse with his daughter over a period of from 8-to-13 years, is being held here for incest.

His admission differing from his daughter's charges only in the length of time the affair was carried on, the accused man is the father of 9 children, four of them girls, one of them by his daughter. A boy, borne for him by his daughter, died after living only two hours.

The name of the father, his accuser and the entire family is being withheld, in keeping with an agreement police made with the young woman when she told them her story. It was fear of notoriety, she said, which had prevented her from seeking relief from her father's unwelcome attentions before. Sat. 3-15-47

According to the young woman, who is 21, her father first took advantage of her when she was 7 years old. The incident made her ill. Since that time, the relationship continued with "regular" and sometimes "daily" occurrences.

The father's only disagreement with his daughter's story concerned the time the intimacies were instigated. He said the first attack took place when his daughter was "about 13."

The girl said the relationship was carried on with her mother's full awareness, though not her consent. At first, when the mother discovered the pair "in the act", she protested, the girl said; but the father "buffed her around, and she was afraid of him, and would not report the act to anyone".

The mother gradually became indifferent, her daughter said, recalling a time when she complained and her mother told her "to shut up. She could not do anything about it, and did not have time to bother about it".

Forty-five- years of age, married since 1922, the father refused to let any other male associate with his daughter. He threatened to kill her if she complained to police and on Mar. 1 when his daughter ran away, he threatened to kill the entire family, it was charged. Sat. 3-15-47

Recently, the daughter said, one of her brothers told his father his objections to the maltreatment of his sister, and the two fought about it.

In March of last year the girl said she ran away from home (the family was then living in Waelder), going to San Antonio. Her father learned where she was from a letter she wrote her mother and came after her. Later the family moved to San Antonio, leaving it during the cotton season to pick cotton in various Texas counties. They returned to San Antonio last month.

Last week the girl said she could stand no more of her father's treatment and decided "that the best thing I could do to get everything straightened out would be to call the police".

Tells Judge He 'Protected' Them

Mental Examination Ordered by Jurist

The Afro-American

HE ASKS MERCY

Baltimore, MD.

Girls, 14, 16 Good High School Students

Sat, 8-2-47

14

BALTIMORE

A father who explained that he had sexual relations with his two young daughters to protect them from the advances of other men, pleaded guilty to incest, Thursday, and threw himself upon the mercy of the court.

In an attempt to peer into the obviously-cluttered mind of the man and come up with some cause for his warped and incestuous actions, Judge Joseph Sherbow ordered him held for a thorough psychiatric examination.

The 37-year-old father, dressed in a neat suit and bow tie, sat at the trial table in silence and apparent despair, as Policewoman Violet Hill Whyte revealed that he had tampered with his 14-year-old daughter for two years and a 16-year-old daughter for one.

"Above Average" Family

Both girls are exceptionally intelligent high school pupils; and they have a brother in college, Mrs. Whyte said, adding that the entire family was "far above average."

Sat. 8-2-47

In a statement to Mrs. Whyte, the man said his actions must have been caused by "whiskey thoughts." He reasoned to her that his furnishing the sexual life of the girls would "keep other boys and men from ruining their (the daughters) careers."

The man also told the policewoman that he always used "protection" with the girls so they would not be threatened with pregnancy.

Sat. 8-2-47

Father Drank Increasingly

Mrs. Whyte told Judge Sherbow that she had worked with the family since the girls first complained of the father's forcing his attentions upon them.

During this period, she said, the man drank more and more steadily, and on several occasions, chased his wife from the home, and beat the girls into submission.

The subject of these accusations did not testify, but sat quietly by, with his head bowed.

Negro Jailed In Kidnaping Of Farm Girl

Defender. Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 9-6-47

Allegedly Held Her In Woods for 3 Weeks

Easton, Md., Aug. 27 (U.P.)—A one-eyed Negro farm hand was jailed today on a charge of kidnaping a 15-year-old white girl and forcing her to live with him in the woods for almost three weeks.

The suspect, identified as Cornelius Ellsworth Whiting, 39, was captured early today by a posse which had trailed him with bloodhounds to a farmhouse about 25 miles north of Easton.

Suffers Malnutrition.

Talbot County Prosecutor Harry Clark said Whiting was unarmed. The warrant for his arrest charged him with abducting Hattie Lou Unsworthy on August 5 from the tenant farm at Wye Mills, Md., where her father and the Negro worked.

The farm girl, worn and thin after her experience, was found Sunday by a police officer in a densely wooded area about a dozen miles from her home.

She was taken to Memorial Hospital here, suffering from malnutrition. Clark said her condition, while not serious, made it impossible for her to make a complete statement. Sat 9-6-47

Could Ask Death Penalty.

Clark said he had not decided the charges on which Whiting would be prosecuted.

Under Maryland law the prosecution could ask the death penalty for abduction of a minor.

Queen Annes County police, who helped find the girl, said she told them they had been living on a diet of berries and vegetables stolen from neighboring farms.

Manhunt Ends in Arrest of 2nd Maryland 'Eloper'

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 9-6-47

39-Year-Old Farmer Whisked to Safety; Girl, 15, Now Charges She Was Abducted

By RUFUS WELLS

EASTON, Md. — Cornelius E. Whiting, 39-year-old tenant farmer sought on a kidnaping charge since he "eloped" with a 15-year-old white girl August 6, was arrested at pistol point by State troopers early Wednesday as he fled from the home of his father-in-law, 10 miles north of here.

Whiting and the girl, Hattie Unsworth, vanished from the Wye Mills farm where they lived, with the declared purpose of "going to New York to get married."

His arrest climaxed an intensive manhunt that began when the pair disappeared, gained impetus when the girl was captured last Sunday and extended across two counties with scores of State troopers, county police and 100 volunteer possemen taking part.

The girl was apprehended Sunday by Constable Waston Wesseli as she fled into a cornfield after seeing her father, Herman Unsworth, on a road near Churchill, Md.

Girl Now in Hospital

Described as being thin, and undernourished, she is now undergoing treatment at Easton's Memorial Hospital where attaches report her condition as "not serious." Baltimore, Md.

The manhunt, one of the Eastern Shore's most exciting, reached its height after Constableman Wessell reported firing at a man who disappeared into the tall corn when the girl was captured.

Since then, the searchers, aided by three bloodhounds borrowed from New York State Police, followed a trail across Talbot and Queen Annes Counties, only to loose it in a violent thunder shower Tuesday night. Sat. 9-6-47

Shortly after Whiting's arrest Wednesday, Catherine Harris, his sister-in-law, who was present at the time, gave an AFRO reporter this account of the incident:

Warned by Sister-in-Law

Cornelius got out of a car in front of the house about 6:30 a.m., came into the house and asked for his discharge papers, a razor and some food. He found the papers in a drawer while I fixed some coffee and a sandwich. He needed a shave and seemed to be nervous but didn't talk much.

"I told him that Junius Roe, a white farmer who lives across the road, had seen him come in and would probably call the police but Cornelius said he didn't think Roe would turn him in.

No Shooting

"About 10 minutes later a car drew up to the house and Cornelius asked who it was. When I told him it was the police he ran out the back door.

"Two State troopers were running towards the rear of the house, with their guns drawn and Cornelius almost ran into their arms. I thought sure they were going to shoot him.

"Another policeman came in the front door at the same time. They handcuffed him and sped away toward Easton."

Whiting was first taken to State police barrack near Easton, then to the Easton jail for questioning and later whisked away to an unnamed jail for "safekeeping," the AFRO learned.

State's Attorney Harry E. Clark, who swore out the original warrant when the pair disappeared, said state police received a "tip" that Whiting could be found at the house.

Troopers John H. Channell and Rowe Hart caught the fugitive at the back door, while Sgt. James C. Latham advanced on the front of the house, Mr, Clark said.

Girl Changes Story

A protracted search for the couple narrowed down to the Eastern Shore Tuesday of last week when a Wye Mills businessman reported seeing the girl. She was taken into custody the following Sunday and Whiting's arrest came three days later.

Conflicting stories as to details of the girl's disappearance cropped up last week. Sat. 9-6-47

Though several residents say the girl followed Whiting from the Wye Mills farm, police now quote the girl as saying that she was tied up, kept in the barn overnight, and carried away by Whiting the following morning.

Details of the girl's capture also vary. First reports made by the girl's father were that she ran into the cornfield when she recognized Mr. Unsworth on the road near Churchill.

On Wednesday, State's Attorney Clark gave newsmen this version of the capture which he termed a "rescue:"

"She saw her father walking down the road near where Whiting had her hidden. She called to her father and he saw Whiting dragging the girl into the woods.

"The father summoned Constable Wessell, who rode into the woods on horseback and rescued the girl."

According to police, Whiting kept the girl tied in the woods while he searched for food but frequently sent her to buy articles from nearby stoes, always keeping a watch from outside.

Sevelar storekeepers in Talbot County recall selling the girl merchandise but say she made no attempt to give an alarm.

Last week the girl allegedly talked to Tom Willis, from whose farm she disappeared, and William Wilkie, Wye Mills postmaster, but made no complaint of being held against her will.

Prosecution of Whiting has been delayed, State's Attorney Clark said, because of the "girl's condition and certain other factors." The Talbot County grand jury convenes again in November.

Whiting is married to Mrs. Agnes Whiting who is said to have left him because of his attentions to the white girl.

Infant Stolen in Philadelphia

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Arrest Follows Tip to Cops Over Phone

Sat. 1-11-47

FOOLED HUSBAND

Told Him He Was Dad of Abducted Child

PHILADELPHIA

Convicted of abducting two-months old Deborah Johnson in South Philadelphia on Oct. 2, Mrs. Mary Burton, 40, of 1931 Lombard St., was sentenced to from 18 months to 3 years in county prison Friday by Judge Joseph L. Kun.

At the same time, her accomplice, Mrs. Mary Bundy, 35, same address, who pleaded guilty and testified against her friend for the Commonwealth, was sentenced to 1 to2 years in county prison.

Tip Broke Case

Arrest of both women followed an anonymous telephone call four days after the baby, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Prentiss Johnson of 1607 S. 21st St., disappeared from her coach outside of a store on Point Breeze Ave. near Dickinson St. Afro-American

When police arrived to arrest her, Mrs. Burton was in bed a d insisted that she was the real mother of the baby lying in a crib nearby, it was testified.

Fooled Husband, Friends

Her husband and friends were led to believe it was her child and police testified there were a number of congratulatory cards on the bureau. Baltimore, Md.

In addition, police said, there was a baby record book of "Rosetta Burton" and other infant clothing and equipment in the bedroom.

The child's mother, Mrs. Thelma Johnson, said she left the baby in the coach while she made a purchaes in a five-and-ten cent store.

Both the child and the carriage were missing when she emerged from the store a few minutes later, the mother said. Sat. 1-11-47

Passed Up One Baby

Mrs. Bundy tesified she had been talked into the kidnapping by Mrs. Burton on the promise of making some "easy money."

According to Mrs. Bundy, the two women decided against taking one baby they saw on Point Breeze Ave., because the carriage it was in could be viewed from the store.

They watched Mrs. Johnson enter the store, Mrs. Bundy testified, and when they were certain the mother could not see them, she pushed the carriage to 21st and Reed St., where she left the coach and took the baby.

At her apartment, Mrs. Bundy said, she turned the baby over to Mrs. Burton, who placed little Deborah in the crib and then got in bed.

Birth Story Flops

Capt. Francis O'Connell told the jury of nine women and three men that Mrs. Burton insisted it was her child until police told her they hed checked her story with the doctor she said had attended her at the alleged birth.

She then admitted, O'Connell said, that the baby had been kidnapped.

On the stand, Mrs. Burton denied she had abducted the baby. She said she had the record book because Mrs. Bundy told her she could keep the child if its mother did not show up.

The anonymous telephone call which broke the case was made to the child's mother. The caller, who refused to identify herself, said:

"I am a mother myself and I heard the radio broadcast yester-day which appealed for the r of your baby."

Court Upholds Conviction Of Negro

Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Tues. 5-13-47

Jackson, Miss., May 12 (AP)—Ruling on a second case growing out of the "Sullivan's Hollow" gun battle incident between Negroes and whites last summer, the Mississippi Supreme Court today affairmed the conviction of Johnny Craft, Negro, charged with shooting with attempt to kill.

Last week the Supreme Court absolved Johnny Craft's brother, W. O. Craft, who was similarly charged.

Court Makes Distinction.

In the decision today the court made a distinction between the cases of the two brothers, pointing out that the charge against Johnny Craft was concerned with a shooting at the Craft home on a Sunday night in August, and that of W. O. Craft with a shooting the following morning.

In the "Sullivan's Hollow" incident last August, four officers functioning with the Smith County sheriff's office were wounded during an investigation at the Craft home of a report that Negroes in a truck had fired on a white boy.

State witnesses testified that the sheriff's posse was fired upon when they attempted to question members of the Craft family. Members of the family testified that the officers fired several shots into the house before any shot was fired by Johnny Craft.

Johnny Craft was convicted of shooting Wilson Dickerson and was sentenced to serve 10 years. His attorneys sought a reversal on the ground that the trial court permitted incompetent testimony.

In last week's decision, the court held that the sheriff had no right to arrest or shoot at Negroes fleeing the Craft home when a posse arrived on the morning after the Dickerson shooting.

Southern Justice Frees a Negro

PM N.Y., N.Y.
Tue. 6-3-47

JACKSON, Miss.

The Mississippi Supreme Court came again to the assistance of one of the Negroes convicted of firing at a Sheriff's posses in the Sullivan's Hollow gun battles of 1946.

Setting aside a 10-year sentence against L. T. Hubbard, the court ruled as it did in the W. O. Craft case that the Sheriff had no legal right to assume that the men were guilty of a felony because they ran at the sheriff's approach.

Holiday Springs Guy in Dope Case

Afro-American

Blues Singer Wins Man Freedom on Dope Count

Baltimore, Md.

PHILADELPHIA

"True Blue Lou" would seem to be a better pseudonym for Billie Holiday than the widely-known "Lady Day" by which she is called, for, like the lady in the former song, she has certainly been loyal to her "Guy." 9-27-47

Deliberating only 15 minutes, a Federal court jury Wednesday freed Joseph L. Guy, former star trumpeter with Lucky Millender's orchestra and alleged boy friend of Songstress Billie Holiday, of charges that he had concealed and illegally transported narcotics last spring. Sat.

Guy was nabbed by Federal agents in New York City May 19, three days after they arrested the sultry-voiced Miss Holiday at the Hotel Attucks, 801 S. 15th St.

The famous singer was subsequently tried on a narcotics charge and sentenced to a Virginia sanitorium for one year for drug addiction treatment. 14

Miss Holiday Star Witness

The 27-year-old Alabama-born musician was at that time indicted by the grand jury on the dope charge. Afro-American

Despite his plea of not guilty, at his trial this week, he waived the right to testify and was acquitted by a jury of eight men and four women. Baltimore Md

Star witness at the one-day trial was attractively dressed Miss Holiday, who denied that Guy purchased or concealed any narcotics for her during her Philadelphia appearance at the Earle Theatre, when the Government charged that the violation had been committed.

Singer Stylishly Dressed

The 28-year-old (Lady Day) Billie, whose name is known by all modern jazz enthusiasts, wore a two-piece blue steel suit, yellow blouse, and the now-fashionable blue sheer stockings. To match the ensemble, her hair-do was striking.

She answered questions of attorneys in her typical deep-throated manner. 9-27-47

In Jail Since Capture

Guy, who was put under $2,500 bail, but who was unable to raise that amount, had been in Moyamensing Prison since his arrest.

His attorney, Isadore Gottlieb said despite the enforced confinement there was little that could be done to compensate Guy.

Prey to Parasites

Federal narcotics agents at Miss Holiday's trial late in May charged that Guy posed as the torch-singer's husband and that he obtained most of the dope she used.

Joseph Heldenberger, assistant U. S. attorney, told Judge Ganey before whom Billie was brought that she was "broke" although she had earned more than $50,000 during the past year through personal appearances and records.

He stated that the singer was a "prey to parasites who made a racket out of selling her heroine," for which she paid sometimes as high as $300 for an injection.

Afro-American Baltimore, md

(14)

Narcotics

9-27-47

FREED—Joseph Luke Guy, former trumpeter with the Lucky Millender orchestra and erstwhile boyfriend of Singer Billie Holiday, is shown as he left U.S. District Court in Philadelphia last week after being freed of charges that he illegally transported and concealed narcotics Federal agents arrested Guy last May shortly after the torch singer was picked up on a dope charge. Edward J. Conway (left) U.S. Deputy Marshal is shown with the musician.

Seaman With Enough Dope for 4,000 Cigarettes Jailed

14 Afro. American

Baltimore, md.

BALTIMORE

A 21-year-old New York merchant seaman, found guilty in Federal Court, Friday, of smuggling in enough marijuana for 4,000 cigarettes, was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in the penitentiary. Sat. 10-18-47

The messman, James Williams, of the S.S. African Lynn, was arrested by a port patrol officer here as he left the ship with the dope in a cracker box, testimony revealed.

Williams testified that he got the weed from a man, who was unknown to him, while his ship was in an African port, in exchange for a tee-shirt and two pairs of trousers.

$2,000 Worth of "Tea"

U. S. District Attorney Flynn said the dope weighed 22 ounces and was enough for nearly 4,000 cigarettes. The cigarettes now market for about 50 cents each, he asserted, which would bring the value of the cache to $2,000.

Entering a guilty plea, Williams said he went as far as the seventh grade in a Florida school, has a wife and child in Brooklyn. Anthony Fredico, local attorney represented the defendant.

Man Sentenced For Marijuana

14 Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

BIRMINGHAM—Charles Gustav Griffin of Sheffield, last week was awaiting transer to a Federal prison following his conviction for violation of the marijuana laws in this State. Judge Seyborn H. Lynn presided at the trial in Florence at the Federal Court.

Twenty-seven stalks of the weed were found growing among corn in a plot owned by Griffin, police said.

Sold Marijuana; Gets Prison Term

Sat. 11-1-47

14

Defender Chicago Ill.

William Oliver, 44, of 314 E. 56th st., owner of a shoe shine stand at 369 E. 43rd st., was sentenced to year and a day in the penitentiary Monday by Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan after pleading guilty to violating the narcotic law by selling marijuana cigarettes.

Assistant U. S. Attorney Joseph E. Tobin told the court that Oliver was seized by park police after a 16-year-old youth found wandering in the park said that Oliver had sold him four of the cigarettes for 50 cents apiece.

BILLIE HOLIDAY CURED; TO BE FREED DEC. 12

Sat. Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Illinois

14

CHICAGO (ANP) 12-12-47 Billie "Lady Day" Holiday, America's most popular torch singer has been pronounced cured of drug habits and is all set to be released from the federal reformatory in Alderson, W. Va., Friday, Dec. 12, it was revealed here last week. Last May, Miss Holiday received a year and a day sentence in the reformatory on dope charges, and has since been undergoing curative treatment. Sat. 12-12-47

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11 Marihuana Peddlers Nabbed in 3 N.Y. Cities

14 Afro-American

Federal Agents Find Juveniles Use Narcotics in Rochester, One Suspect Swallows Evidence

Baltimore, Md.

11-22-47

BUFFALO, N.Y. — After an investigation of several weeks, Federal Narcotic officers here, in Rochester and Lakawanna, arrested 11 marihuana peddlers last week. A leak during the probe caused several of the peddlers to move from one city to the other.

However, their moving was in vain. In Rochester it is said that most of the customers for the marihuana were juveniles and most of the peddlers were local "jam" session musicians.

Those in Custody

Sat.

Those arrested were:

William (Sonny) Johnson, 20, of 84 Masten St., Odell Rainey, 20, 23 Spring St., Lawrence Rainey, 109 Mortimer St., brother of Odell, Marcellus Osburn, 19, 103 Pratt St., and Freddie Gore, 20, 534 Monroe St., all of Buffalo: 11-22-47

Danny Lee, 21, 159 Albright Court Homes in Lackawanna; Joseph Walker, 22, 59 Kelly St., James Smith, 21 281 Joseph Ave., Carl (Cokey) Torbit, 19, 60 Kelly St., George Leach, 20 29 Favor St., and Arthur Jackson 29, 277 Hudson Ave., all of Rochester.

Odell Rainey is now on a two-year probation for violation of the Weapon Law. Osburn and L. Rainy recently were in Federal Court on a charge of forging and attempting to cash a Government check. 11-22-47

Solicits Officer

According to reports, Jackson innocently approached Federal Inspector James Fletcher and told him that he had just returned from Rochester and had several marihuana cigarettes. He offered the officer one after which the officer placed him under arrest.

When Inspector Fletcher seized Jackson to make the arrest, he (Jackson) attempted to swallow eight of the cigarettes to avoid having any evidence on him. He succeeded in chewing and swallowing three.

14 1947

Narcotics

Billie Holiday, Three Others Held on Narcotic Charges

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—Billie Holiday, songstress and recording star, and Joseph Guys, a trumpet player, whom Federal Narcotics Agents says is her husband, were picked up here at 3 a.m. Monday and held on charges of violating the Federal Narcotics Law.

James Ascendio, 36, her personal manager, and Robert H. Tucker Jr., her accompanist, from Morristown, N.J., were held on the same charge Monday morning by U.S. Commissioner Norman J. Griffin.

Tucker was released after signing $1,000 bond. Ascendio was held under $2,000 bail and committed to prison. They are to have a further hearing Tuesday morning.

Case Breaks in Philly

Narcotic agents, who had information that Miss Holiday was an addict, went to the Crispus Attucks Hotel in Philadelphia, Friday, about 2 a.m. and arrested Ascendio. In the room they found a quantity of heroin in capsules under the bed.

Ascendio said they were for Miss Holiday and that she was taking them. Tucker was also in the room.

The agents said that Miss Holday was allegedly outside the hotel in a car at the time and that when she saw them go in, she drove away. They picked her and Guys up in New York.

The singer told agents here that she had been getting her heroin from Guys and she had bought about $10,000 worth from him over a period of about two years.

Ascendio gave his address as 568 149th St. Joseph Bransky is the agent in charge of the narcotics section here. Sat. 5-31-47

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 5-31-47
14

SILENT SINGER—Billie Holiday, torch singing star, is shown as she waited in Federal courtroom in Philly for hearing on dope charges. At left is James Ascendio, her road manager, who was held in $2000 bail on narcotic charge. The vocalist's pianist, Robert Tucker (center), was also arrested, but later released. Billie, who was held in $1000 bail for a further hearing in June, collapsed as bond was being arranged for her release in U.S. commissioner's office.

BILLIE HOLIDAY

BLUES IN THE NEWS:

Billie Holiday Faints at Philly Dope Trial

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 5-31-47

PHILADELPHIA

Billie Holiday, the torrid torch singer, who ducked bullets to escape Federal narcotic agents last week, collapsed, Tuesday, after a hearing in Federal Court building on dope charges.

Held in $1000 bail for a further hearing June 3, the 28-year-old star pitched forward suddenly and fainted as she sat in U.S. Commissioner Norman Griffin's office awaiting arrangements for her release under bond.

A physician had to be summoned to revive her.

Three Associates Nabbed

The song stylist and three associates were arrested by narcotic agents after a hotel raid, designated to trap her, netted a quantity of heroin — if not on the elusive Miss Holiday.

She was picked up three days later in New York, however, along with Joseph Guy, a trumpet player, who narcotic agents said "posed" as her husband.

In New York, the Federal men said she told them she had bought about $10,000 worth of heroin from Guy in the last two years.

Caught in the raid in their room in the Attucks Hotel, 15th and Catherine Sts., were James Ascendio, 36, the star's road manager, and Robert H. Tucker Jr., 25, her accompanist.

Under a bed in the room, the agents said, were 16 capsules of heroin, along with two needles and other paraphanalia used for drug injections.

Dope Under Bed

Both men at first denied knowledge of the stuff, but Ascendio later admitted he was keeping it for the singer, an agent said at the hearing Tuesday.

The agent, Max Roder, said she had been trailed to the hotel early Friday morning, after her last appearance at the Earle Theater, where she was co-starred with Louis Armstrong.

Instead of entering the hotel where she was staying, however, Miss Holiday waited outside in her expensive automobile while the others went inside. 14

Spotting the situation as the agents, assisted by police, closed in, Billie and her chauffeur took off in a hurry. As they were pulling away, one of the raiding agents opened fire at their car.

Guy, according to Joseph BrankSy, Federal agent in charge of this district, left Philadelphia Wednesday. The musician, now held in New York, will be brought back to Philadelphia to face charges, Branksy said.

Both Ascendio and Tucker were held in bail at a preliminary hearing Monday. At Tuesday's hearing, however, Tucker was discharged and Ascendio held in $2,000 bail. Sat. 5-31-47

Tucker, a pianist, lives in Morristown, N.J. Ascendio, said to have been Henry Armstrong's traveling secretary at one time, gave an address in New York.

$2,000 Bail Set for Philly Trio

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Victims Tell Police Smoke Aided 'Nerves'

Sat. 6-21-47

CACHE UNCOVERED

Hot Ciggies Sold for Fifty Cents Each

PHILADELPHIA

Two brothers, 19 and 21 years old, accused of selling marihuana to students at South Philadelphia High School, were held last week in $2,000 bail each for court.

The youths — Robert Martin, 21, and Edward, 19, both of 2033 Pemberton St. — waived a hearing and did not testify.

Found in Home

However, the arresting officers, Acting Sgt. Horace White and Edward Payne, of the Crime Prevention Association, a division of the city police, said at the hearing before Magistrate Nathan Beifel that they had found a large quantity of marihuana at the Martins' home.

Raymond Harrison, 15, a 10th grade student at South Philadelphia admitted using the drug, which he said he secured from Edward Martin and "rolled my own cigarettes."

Harrison implicated Edward Glassman, an 11th-grade student, and George Connor, 15, a 10th-grade student.

Cost Half-Buck

Both admitetd smoking the doped cigarettes, which they said they bought from Harrison for 50 cents a piece.

The two Martins were taken into custody June 3, as was a younger brother, Richard, 17, who did not appear at the hearing because he was being detained at Municipal Court. Sat. 6-21-47

The arrests were made following numerous complaints by school authorities about the wide use of narcotics by junior and senior high school students, Sgt. White and Officer Payne said. Magistrate Beifel issued the warrants for the arrests.

The Crime Prevention Association members testified that on June 2 they entered the home of the Martin brothers and found 32 grams of marihuana and an unidentified root in a package, a man's sock, and a bag and a can.

In the home of Harrison a quantity of marihuana was found in a box, they said.

Nerve 'Settlers'

The officers declared at the hearing that Edward Martin, a former merchant seaman, had admitted to them he smoked the narcotic cigarettes "to settle" his nerves.

They also injected the possibility that Edward had brought the marihuana into this country from a foreign port, since the drug, according to laboratory tests, was not a domestic type.

The Crime Prevention men fur-

ther added that they were co-operating with the board of education to eliminate the use of drugs among school children.

Billie Holiday
Answers Charge Today

PM New york, N.Y.

14

Billie Holiday Held on Drug Rap

Tues. 5-20-47

Billie Holiday, called by critics the greatest of contemporary blues singers, and Joseph Luke Guy, unemployed orchestra leader who either is or isn't her husband, were arrested here yesterday by Federal agents on charges of illegally possessing heroin.

Miss Holiday, who last week started an engagement at the Club 18, at 131 W. 52d St., was paroled by U. S. Commissioner Garrett W. Cotter in custody of her manager, Joseph Glaser, president of Associated Booking Corp., who promised to have her in Philadelphia this morning to answer the charge.

Tues. 5-20-47

U. S. Attorney Says
Billie Admits Addiction

Guy, a trumpeter, who is 26, two years younger than Miss Holiday, was held in $3000 bail for Federal Grand Jury action. Narcotics agents are taking him to Philadelphia.

Assistant U. S. Attorney Joseph Martin said that Miss Holiday admitted she was a heroin addict but that she insisted the quantity she had in Philadelphia was for her own use and not for sale.

Guy said he had no heroin in Philadelphia last week but agents yesterday found two grains which he allegedly threw out of a window of the Grampion Hotel at 182 St. Nicholas Ave., where he and Miss Holiday had rooms.

Martin said that early Friday morning narcotics agents raided Miss Holiday's suite at the Hotel Attuck in Philadelphia, where the singer had just finished a week's engagement at the Earle Theater and was packing to return here.

Claims Billie Escaped
In Parked Car

Tues. 5-20-47

Martin said that Miss Holiday escaped, reached a parked car, deliberately drove at an agent who fired several shots, and came to New York. The agents arrested her pianist, Bobby Tucker, and her road manager, James Asendio, after finding 16 grains of heroin in a woman's stocking under a bed.

In an interview printed in PM, Sept. 2, 1945, Miss Holiday was quoted as saying she was Guy's wife. Yesterday Glaser said emphatically that the two were not and never had been married.

Drug Traffic - Sodomy Trial On June Eckstine Continued

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

14

Fri. 3-14-47

NORRISTOWN, Pa.—(ANP)—The five-count drug traffic-sodomy trial of Mrs. June Payne Eckstine, wife of singer-band leader Billy Eckstine, scheduled to open in Montgomery County court here early last week, was continued until the April court term, because the principal witness for the prosecution failed to put in an appearance.

According to the prosecution's counsel, Miss Florence Johnson, the 18-year-old plaintiff, is currently a patient in the Philadelphia Psychiatric hospital and unable to make court appearances against the defendant.

$2,000 BAIL

Mrs. Eckstine was arrested on charges of sodomy, administering, possessing and delivery of drugs; and distribution and trafficking in narcotics. She is being held under a $2,000 bail. Warrant for her arrest was sworn out by George Johnson, brother of the plaintiff.

At the first magistrate's trial, Miss Johnson accused Mrs. Eckstine of persuading her to smoke several reefers in 24 hours during the Christmas holidays and forcing her to indulge in acts of perversion. The singer's wife denied all charges and hints passed that there were other reasons why the charges were pressed by the girl. All acts were said to have taken place at the Eckstine home in Ardmore.

WOMAN IN HOSPITAL

On the day scheduled for the trial's opening before Judge George A. Corson, District Atty. Fred Smillie told the court that a letter had been received from the hospital saying that Miss Johnson was a patient there for observation. Dated March 1, the letter was signed by Samuel Cohen, M. D., diretcor, and said that she was being detained for mental disorder and characteristics of "marked mental depression". Fri. 3-14-47

The development came as a complete surprise to the prosecution, defense and the crowded courtroom. Both sides immediately asked that an examination of the girl be made and a report brought into court. Judge Corson continued the case until the April term. It has already been set back twice.

The trial never was called, the lawyers merely informing the judge of the letter. Mrs. Eckstine, in court with her husband, Bill, and a Miss Cleopatra Nelson of Ardmore, was represented by Attys. Raymond Pace Alexander and Herbert C. Nelson.

BILLY ECKSTINES FRAMED?

14

Singer, Wife Both Charge Conspiracy to Undo Them

Afro-American 1-25-47 Sat.

PHILADELPHIA

Counsel for Mrs. June Eckstine, accused of inducing an 18-year-old high school girl to smoke reefers and engage in unnatural sex acts, last week, reiterated the charge that the former had been "framed."

Mrs. Eckstine, attractive wife of Billy Eckstine, popular singing bandleader, was freed two weeks ago in $2,000 bail, after she had been originally denied bail at a hearing before an Ardmore magistrate. 1-25-47 Sat.

Her attorney, Raymond Pace Alexander, said that not only had Mrs. Eckstine been "framed," but that her husband had been a similar victim in New York. He called it a "conspiracy to frame Eckstine in New York and the girl here"

Billy Nabbed in N.Y.

The vocalist-orchestra maestro was arrested in a reefer den in New York's Sugar Hill in December. Taken into custody at the same time were a blonde dancer and Jimmy Holmes, a Chicagoan.

Eckstine was allegedly carrying a .45-calibre revolver and 183 marihuana cigarettes were confiscated from the premises.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Eckstine remained at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne, in Ardmore, where she refused to discuss the case with newspapermen, referring them to her counsel.

Brother Files Charges

The incidents involved comely Florence L. Johnson of 723 Preston St., Bryn Mawr, and allegedly took place during the Christmas holidays at the home of the Paynes. 1-25-47 Sat.

Charges were preferred against Mrs. Eckstine by the girl's brother, George Johnson of 4136 Mantua St., Philadelphia, who had quizzed his sister when she seemed nervous and upset.

When arraigned before him on charges of administering drugs to commit a felony, illegal possession of narcotics and sodomy, Magistrate Joseph Allen Jr., held Mrs. Eckstine without bail.

Released Next Day

A day later, Judge Harold G. Knight, in Montgomery County Court, Norristown, released her when $2,000 bail was furnished.

No date has been set for her trial in this court. According to court attaches, because of a heavy calendar for February, it is unlikely to come up next month.

In her testimony at the magistrate's hearing, Miss Johnson said that she had been persuaded to smoke reefer cigarettes and commit abnormal sex acts on three occasions on the visit to the Paynes. 1-25-47 Sat

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New Book Out

DR. W. E. B. DUBOIS, whose "The World and Africa" will be released by the Viking Press on Jan. 27. The book deals with the part Africa has played in world history. Dr. Du Bois is director of special research for the NAACP and author of several historical studies and novels.

14 1947 Negroes by Negroes

When Victims Are Negroes

14 N by N

Group Seeks Tight Law On Race Law Breakers

Pittsburgh Pa. Courier

NORFOLK, Va.—A group of Negro citizens appeared before the City Council Tuesday and asked for a tighter law on Negro offenders against Negroes.

The Council turned the matter over to City Manager C. A. Harrell. The contention of the commitee was that Negroes have no fear of much punishment when they commit crimes against Negroes.

Sat. 11-29-47

The committee came from the Sons of Norfolk, one of the city's most influential organizations. Floyd Marshall, president of the organization; George S. Williams, T. A. Lee, George Ward and R. B. Jones made up the commitee.

T. W. Young spoke at one time against the granting of any more beer and wine permits in sections of Negro communities where there are enough already.

This action leads up to the prospect of another Negro candidate in the Council election coming up this summer when two places will be vacant. Victor Ashe, who made such a splnedid showing in the Council race before is rumored as being asked to run again, and Dr. S. F. Coppage, dentist and politician, is also being discussed as another prospect.

Courier

The Women's Demcoratic Club, Mrs. Mattie Javins, president, is hearing William Lawrence, newly elected member of the Nansemond County Board of Supervisors, Wednesday night, Nov. 26, Smith Street USO

HELD AS A KIDNAPPER

N.Y. N.Y.

(14)

Man Says He Took Boy, 2, in Tow Thinking Latter Was Los

Sun. 7-20-47

Louis O'Brien, 32 years old, o 204-A Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, was arrested yesterday on charge of kidnapping Rober Towle, 2, of 822 Bedford Avenue Brooklyn. The boy, youngest o twelve children, was found with O'Brien in a neighborhood candy store at 6:45 A. M. after policemen, searching for the missing lad, had been told by two men that they had noticed the boy "because he was with a Negro."

O'Brien said he had found the boy wandering about the streets and "took him in tow because he seemed lost." The youngster was reported missing by his father, William Towle, a widower, who found the boy was not in bed when he woke up at 4 A. M. Robert had been asleep in the family's two-story frame house when another brother came in at 1:20 A. M., the police said. New York Times

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CRIME INCREASING IN 'LITTLE SPAIN'

(14)

Puerto Rican Migrants Jammed Into East Harlem District Keep the Police Busy

Times-New York, N.Y.

BOY GANGS ROAM STREETS

Robberies, Gambling and Vice Are Common—Authorities Urge More Play Areas

Sun. 8-3-47

By **ALBERT J. GORDON**

The area in East Harlem known as "Little Spain," housing the Puerto Rican population, has been marked in the last eighteen months by a sharp increase in crime, especially among the teen-age population.

Police officials responsible for guarding the section from Fifth to First Avenues and from East Seventy-ninth to East 116th Streets described conditions there yesterday. They said the detectives and uniformed police working out of the East 104th and East 126th Street stations had had their hands full in trying to keep the crime rate down. Sun. 8-3-47

In "Little Spain" live the majority of the estimated 600,000 Puerto Ricans now in the United States. Puerto Rica officials challenge the estimate. They say not more than 350,000 are in this country.

Most of the Puerto Ricans in this city live in poverty, and are crowded into apartments, as many as fifteen or eighteen in four or five rooms. The situation is aggravated by the arrival of 2,000 or more Puerto Ricans by plane and ship every month. The majority remain in New York City. Some find employment. Others find their way on relief rolls. Being American citizens, the migrants don't need passports and are not involved in red tape.

Boy Gangs Stage Stickups

The police in East Harlem said one of their greatest worries concerned the youngsters who organize themselves into gangs. Carrying crudely made pistols, the youngsters roam the streets during late night and early morning hours, engage in stick-ups and are not reluctant to fire.

Shopkeepers, mostly those who operate fruit stands, have complained frequently about daily pilferings. Although the police have maintained a careful watch, the robberies and hold-ups continue to increase. Purse-snatchings are common occurrences.

Another growing evil is the sale of narcotics. The use of habit-forming drugs, the police said, is on the increase among the young as well as adults. The sale of marijuana cigarettes is increasing. The charge for a marijuana cigarette is $1. Not many can pay this price. For fifty cents the cigarette is cut in two, and the buyer gets one of the halves.

Various gambling games, such as dice, numbers and Spanish monte, are played day and night in back rooms.

Times-New York, N.Y.

Police Station Crowded

The police station at East 104th Street resembled last night the waiting room of a railroad station. Complainants, defendants, detectives and policemen marched in and out during all hourse of the night. Sun. 8-3-47

The complaints ranged all the way from common assault and larceny to stabbings and shootings. The detectives and policemen deal on the spot with as many of the complaints as possible. Those requiring investigation keep piling up daily. The district presents problems unlike those in any other section of the city.

The East Harlem section has been the breeding ground for various forms of lotteries, in particular the policy-slip racket. This type of crime has become so evident that increased details of plainclothes policemen have been assigned to the area.

An increase in vice also has resulted in additional plainclothes details. Despite arrests and prosecution, prostitution continues. It is difficult to control and is reflected in the increasing number of cases of venereal disease reported by city health officials.

Times-New York, N.Y.

Playgrounds Needed

Sun. 8-3-47

The police department has reported there is need for more supervised playrooms and play streets in the district. School windows have been broken and classrooms damaged as a result of unsupervised play in school yards. The absence of recreational centers and lack of parks, the police assert, is responsible for a good deal of the juvenile delinquency.

The police would like to see more coordinating councils like the one operating at the Wadleigh High School, which popularizes afternoon recreational activities especially designed for Peurto Ricans, and more cooperation with existing agencies. 8-3-47

The police would like to have more prominent Puerto Ricans participating in the coordinating councils. They want the schools to give greater publicity to the benefits of PAL, the Police Athletic League, which provides play activities for youngsters. The police also would like to see greater use of existing facilities to arouse public consciousness of Puerto Rican parents through Parent Teachers Associations, with addresses in Spanish, trips throughout the city and outlying areas through PAL auspices and the formation of more baseball and soccer teams.

117 Arrive at Newark

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEWARK, N. J., Aug. 2—More than 200 Puerto Rican migrants and tourists arrived or departed today on planes from the airport here. One Hundred and seventeen passengers, including twelve children, arrived between 8 A. M. and 1 P. M. Planes scheduled to leave before midnight for Puerto Rico were booked for 101 passengers.

Women were in the majority arriving today, some for visits with relatives in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Harlem and Washington Heights; others to enter domestic work. A considerable number of the men said they had jobs or were promised jobs in factories or restaurants. A few well-dressed couples said they were on vacations.

Four planes, three of them twin-motored DC-3's, with plush seats at right angles to the fuselage, and the DC-4 of the Trans-Caribbean Airline, known as the luxury line of the operation, brought the arrivals. The Trans-Caribbean is the only one of the fifteen or more charter airlines operating from this airport or Teterboro whose San Juan flights are non-stop.

The three other planes were twin-motored ships of the American Air Transport, the Miami Airline and the Peninsula Airline Stops are made at Miami and Lumberton, N. C. Sun. 8-3-47

A sack full of contraband tropical fruits and vegetables, which are hosts to the fruit fly and the weevil, were seized by inspectors of the Department of Agriculture from passengers on the Trans-Caribbean.

THE PRICE OF DECADENCE

(14)

Also Jails 35 Per Cent Of All U.S. Prisoners

Sat. 11-1-47 Chicago, Ill. Defender

By JOHN LeFLORE

ATLANTA, Ga.—The reactionary South, with its illiteracy, low wage scales, and tradition of Negro and poor white serfdom, last year held its own in two respects.

Twelve states of Dixie furnished 35 per cent of the prison population of the nation and 50 per cent of the executions. Sat. 11-1-47

Figures showing these not very astonishing facts were garnered from a report for the first part of this year in the regional office of the Bureau of the Census here.

Georgia led individual states of both the South and the Southeast in prison population by the early part of 1947, with 5,436 prisoners. The figure represents a 20 per cent gain over 1946, but is 80 per cent under the state's worst record of 8,000 in 1938.

Issued by C. Parker Persons, regional director of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the federal report showed that the South accounts for 35 per cent of the nation's 123,782 prison inmates.

44,422 In Prison

On December 31, 1946, the South had 44,422 persons in prison, a slight gain over the previous year.

Georgia's record showed a marked gain at the state prison at Reidsville and the 96 work camps' low of 4,300 during the war years. During the first part of 1947 the South and Southeast had 44,422 and 21,468 prisoners respectively, as compared to 40,318 and 19,594 respectively, last year.

Dixie Executes 46 Sat. 11-1-47

The Bureau's report further showed that 71 persons were executed in prisons throughout the nation in 1946. Southern justice executed 46 of these. Thirty died in North and South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. This is the Deep South and a vast majority were Negroes.

Prisoners in Fulton county (Atlanta) at present number 300, officially considered "normal." Figures for the other Southern States follow: 11-1-47

North Carolina, 3,789; South Carolina, 1,408; Florida, 2,952; Tennessee, 2,380; Alabama, 3,948; Mississippi, 1,915; Maryland, 3,481; District of Columbia, 1,115; Virginia, 3,937; West Virginia, 2,178; Kentucky, 2,234; Arkansas, 1,252; Louisiana, 2,220; Oklahoma, 2,122, and Texas, 4,246.

Officials told the Defender that a breakdown of prisoners by race was not available, but that it is known that Negroes comprise a far greater percentage on a basis of population than whites.

14 1947

South Carolina

(14)

S.C. Convicts Made 'Servants' at Governor's Wedding Rites

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md Sat. 11-1947

COLUMBIA, S.C.—A cherished relic from the days of chattel slavery—the use of colored prisoners to attend State officials, Southern aristocrats, and local socialites at public and private functions—was put on display here at the recent wedding rites of Gov. J. Strom Thurmond and his secretary at the executive mansion.

The prisoners who helped prepare the food, however, were called "servants;" and a "trusty" who helped dressed the "bridgegroom" was called a "valet'." The South delights to parade colored convicts in public. They take care of the State capital grounds, work at State officials' homes, and are farmed out to influential families. 11-29-47

In the publicity given the wedding, a squad of colored prisoners drafted for menial service, was publicly advertised as such, the number of years each was serving was made known, as well as the crime he had committed.

Negroes' Pleas Save White Boys Who Shot Scouts

The Record
Columbia, S.C.

CHARLESTON, Sept. 18—(UP)—Three white youths today pleaded guilty to terrorizing a Negro Boy Scout camp near here and were spared prison sentences on the plea of Negro scout leaders themselves.

Presiding Judge G. Duncan Bellinger sentenced the youths to three years in prison at hard labor for firing a shot gun into a Negro scout camp here and slightly injuring three Negro boys.

But he changed the sentence to five-year-probation after Negro scout leaders asked for clemency for the white youths. Thur. 9-18-47

The white youths, who claimed they fired into Negro Camp Pinckney only as a prank, were Hollis K. Chandler, John Murray, Jr., and George Matthew Pierce, all of Charleston.

Bellinger termed their offense "one of the most atrocious affairs I ever heard of." 9-18-47

"There is no excuse for this sort of thing," he added.

Pee Dee Negroes Fret Over Three Slayings

(14) S.C. Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

JOHN H. MCCRAY
Editor Lighthouse)

BENNETTSVILLE, S. C. — When Bennettsville jailer quit his job of many years Friday and moved his family out, Negroes here and elsewhere in Marlboro county began speculating anew as to what actually caused the death of 34-year old John Wesley McCollum, Jr., whose hanged body was reported by authorities the first week in September.

Inspite the official verdict of suicide, Negroes in this section have never believed it. Almost to the person, they vow that McCollum, who seemed to have had a mania for committing rape, and who at the time was suspected of a third rape count, this while a trustee on the county penal system, was killed by garroting and the fact "faked" to resemble reality. 11-15-47

HAVE NO EVIDENCE

Yet, pin them down to particulars and they cannot give any backing. This is understandable in that none of them was present; nor has any of them access to the jail or records and affairs which would aid them. At best, one can only say that their contention is in the category of speculation, suspicion and perhaps even rumor-mongering.

The oddity, however, is that they are consistant in their versions. "Somebody just killed McCollum," they say. "He wasn't the type to commit suicide." 11-15-47

A well-known citizen gave me this version of the episode, after making his own investigation: McCollum was found by the jailer, (in whom, incidentally, he has much confidence) in a squatting position with a strip of bedticking about his neck. one end tied to the window bars of the cell. This man avers that it appeared impossible that McCollum could have brought death to himself by the short jump he is supposed to take, especially being a strapping, tall man. This citizen reasons that possibly that possibly somebody put a rope about McCollum's neck while questioning him and maybe tightened it too much, unintentionally. But again, here is just more opinion and no facts. Sat.

Anyway, the official story is McCollum hanged himself and this is apt to stand. Yet, nothing is likely to stem the talk among Negroes here. Sat. 11-15-47

DUNHAM CASE

Three weeks ago, in Chester county, also in the Pee Dee section, a 44-year old paroled convict, Dave Dunham, by official verdict, literally blew his head off as county and local officers approached his farm house to question him about the death the night before of a young white man, who is alleged to have been slain by a Negro when accosted in a petting lane section.

Negroes in this section of the Pee Dee, like those in Marlboro county,

Negroes in this section of the Pee Dee, like those in Marlboro county, are saying that Dunham, admittedly caught between the officers and a posse, was slain, not a suicide. But here again, aside from rumblings of those who add an angle and version here, and another there, you have nothing more than rumor and speculation. Persons who are supposed to know Dunham claim that he had lived a model life since being paroled for murder and, hold that he was not the kind of man to commit the crime charged against him. Variously, they claim he was "lynched", without a trial, without being arrested and with his tongue silenced, the real facts must be concealed.

THE MILLER CASE

In June, at Jefferson in Chesterfield county, a mob beat almost unconscious a Negro father by the name of Miller who had come to the town jail to inquire about the status of his son, arrested earlier by a magistrate following a street fight with an employee of the latter. The elderly man was forced to crawl at gun point 200 yards through the streets to the town's limit, then spent and bleeding, made to get up and run for his life. The same mob returned to duplicate the feat on a brother who accompanied him. Meanwhile, the younger Miller, without counsel, was given 18 months on the chaingang Monday morning, where he is now reputed to be. (14) S.C.

Appeals in the case were made to Governor Thurmond at Columbia and certain county officials but as in most cases, nothing has been done.

BEG FOR PROTECTION

The result is that in three counties over here Negroes are wanting and inquiring about federal intervention and investigation. None of them feels the state or county officers will do more than white wash each of the happenings. Instinctively, they feel something was illegal in each case, and in the Miller case where most of the offenders are known personally and many Jefferson whites are het up and over it even yet, they certainly have foundation. We are unable, however, to find anything they could work with in the Bennettsville and Chester cases.

14 1947

Texas

Allege Funds Misused

The Informer

(14)

Houston, Texas

Sat. 5-24-46

By Martin Mayfield, Jr.
Staff Correspondent

Brownsville.—The trial of Mathes H. Coleman, and his wife, Mrs. Ruth W. Coleman both of whom are charged with using United States mail to defraud, went into its second day Tuesday morning in Federal Judge Allen B Hannay's U. S. District court here.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman are co-founders and current directors of the Santa Rosa orphanage vocational training school, located at Santa Rosa, near here. The couple is alleged to have used the orphanage only as a front to cover up a big-time racket in which they solicited and collected thousands of dollars through the mail, using the money for their own personal use, instead of providing for the orphan children in whose benefit the money was contributed.

The defendants pleaded not guilty to all counts which numbered ten. In an endeavor to prove that Mr. Coleman and wife over a period of years used the orphanage only as a means to swell their purse; U. S. government attorneys will put on the witness stand forty-eight witnesses many of whom have contributed to the orphanage through the mail one of more times. The U. S. attorneys are Joe Cash and W. R. Eckhart of Houston; and Charles Dowie of San Benito.

Representing the Colemans are former governor of Texas James Allred of Houston; Ronald Smallwood of Harlingen; and E. D. Boyd of Athens. Sat. 5-24-46

Two witnesses for the government had given testimony when the court adjourned Monday evening. Monday morning was taken up in jury selection. The first witness to take the stand was Howard L. Lackley, director of the division of child welfare in the state department at Austin. Mr. Lackley testified that since 1941, except for a six-month period, Coleman and his wife had solicited funds for the orphanage although they did not have licenses authorizing them to do so. To apparently strengthen Mr. Lackley's testimony the U S introduced into the evidence two applications for license submitted by Mr. Coleman. Both applications were received, however, as copies of letters to Mr. and Mrs. Coleman from the state department and were introduced as evidence.

On cross examining Mr. Lackley, Defense Counsel Allred was successful in eliciting from the child welfare director, the fact that the Santa Rosa orphanage is the only institution in the valley provided or illegitimate, underprivileged orphans.

(14) Tex

In rebuttal to the U. S. letters concerning the license, Allred introduced two letters from the state department of the child welfare division written to Coleman. These letters were signed by subordinates of Mr. Lackley.

One of the defense's letters congratulated Mr. Coleman and wife "for the excellent job" the defendants "were performing in running the orphanage."

The other letter informed Mr. Coleman of the state's decision to grant the Santa Rosa school a permanent operating license. The licenses were attached to the letter.

In introducing the letters, Mr. Allred pointed out that the letter with the attached permanent license was dated after the expiration of the six months temporary license which the U. S. had previously contended was the only license ever granted the Colemans.

Mr. Coleman limped into the courtroom with the aid of two crutches while Mrs. Coleman was carried in on stretchers.

According to Mr. Coleman, he had not recovered from injuries received in an accident in January of this year. At that time, he said, he injured his spine and broke his leg. Mrs. Coleman's appearance in court was the second time she had been out of her home since October of last year, when she became ill, her husband said.

A Negro nurse and Coleman's Latin-American secretary (their names not known) remained with the defendants throughout the trial Monday. The nurse and secretary, seemingly were very concerned over Mrs. Coleman's health and rendered particular attention to the co-defendants all through the first day of the hearing.

Asked by this reporter for a comment, Mr. Coleman said: "During the last fifteen years I have labored and done everything in my power for the betterment of the orphanage and the children there. This grieves and disappoints me greatly to learn that all I have done and tried to do, I am rewarded with these false allegations and indictments."

Asked how he thought the trial was going and if he thought the defendants would be acquitted, Defense Attorney Allred said: "No comments." Sat. 5-24-47

The following is the substance of the allegations in the indictment against Mr. and Mrs. Coleman:

(1) That every since May 1, 1941 to April 1, 1947, the couple had obtained money and profitted by means of false and fraudulent pretenses through the mails.

(2) That prior to May 1, 1941, the orphanage was a Texas Corporation, known as the Valley Orphanage and Vocational Training school and that at that time the charter was amended changing the name of the school to its present name, Santa Rosa Orphanage Vocational Training school, for the purpose of furthering the defendants' plans to defraud the public.

(3) That the defendants sent letters throughout U. S. mail soliciting funds for the school, but which the couple used for personal reasons, leaving the orphans and school neglected.

The indictments listed five of the many typical letters sent out by the Colemans. Three excerpts of typical letters follow:

"Things are not so good here at the orphanage, we are at the end of our rope. For our last money we bought feed for the vegetable crop, but again it was a failure—no price. Nobody wanted to buy them...."

"Buzzards, big black birds, eating -looking vultures are circling our cottage. What would happen to us if you, benefactor, did not chase them away from our humble home an Santa Rosa? So few have helped...."

The second witnesses Monday were V H. Pumblison and C. A. Meron, Cameron county superintendent of schools. Mr. Pumblison said his record showed only 7 out of 23 eligible children at the orphanage were attending school

Mr. Coleman was arrested in December, 1946, after postal inspectors L. O. Taylor and W. D. Main of Houston completed several years of investigation at the orphanage.

Mrs. Coleman was not arrested, however, until April 3, of this year. Her arrest was postponed due to her illness. Both have been out of jail under bond.

Judge Hannay overruled a motion by Mr Allred Friday to dismiss the indictment against the Colemans.

Mrs. Coleman wore a plain blue linen dress. When submitting oral information to her lawyer, she spoke eloquent and used excellent English. Sat. 5-24-47

Several potential jurors, asked by Judge Hannay, if their acquaintance to Coleman might influence their verdict, answered, "Yes." They were excused.

The twelve-man jury consisted of nine white men and three Latin-Americans.

Outlook Bright For Accused

The Informer

(14) Tex

Houston, Texas

BROWNSVILLE. — The codefendants in the mail fraud trial were cheerful as their case was resumed in Federal District Court Thursday morning. and following an abrupt shift of testimony Wednesday by government witnesses which was more in favor of the two defendants than the prosecution.

One federal government witness' testimony Wednesday so greatly favored Coleman that head prosecuting attorney W. R. Eckhardt of Houston leaped to his feet with the objection that if the witness' testimony was to be accepted by the jury, "then the witness should be considered a defense witness and not a witness for the government." Federal Judge Allen B. Hannay overruled the objection on the grounds that the witness was subpoenaed by the government. Sat. 5-24-40

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman are charged with using a little valley orphanage which they founded fifteen years ago as a front to solicit funds through the mail for their own benefit.

Defense lawyers for the couple headed by former governor James V. Allred maintain that money received from the fund raising campaign through the mails was used to purchase buildings and other property on hand at the orphanage, valued at $190,000

The prosecution Wednesday presented ten witnesses by whom these developments were brought before the judge:

1. Mrs. Coleman mailed one million, eight hundred, thirty four thousand, six hundred and seventy two letters from the Santa Rosa post office to all parts of the United States between December 9, 1941, and February 17, 1947. For mailing of these letters she paid $18,393.00.

2. The 480 acre farm which adjourns the orphanage was purchased by Mr. Coleman in 1945 at a cost of $47,500.00. Twenty-two thousand, seven hundred, fifty dollars of the $47,500 has been paid thus far. Sat. 5-24-47

3. A tenant of one half of the purchased 480 acres paid rental payment through the orphanage amounting to $6,856.00 during 1946.

4. The 1941 model Cadillac owned by Mr. Coleman, and a previous issue during the trial, was purchased in 1944 from a member of the board of directors of the school at a cost of $2,750 00.

5. In addition to the purchasing of the 480 acres adjoining the orphanage, Mrs. Coleman personally purchased 50 acres of land from various land owners in the valley during 1942. 1943 and 1944. From a property owner in Marlin the defendant purchased several small buildings and lots at a total cost of $6,175.

The two Santa Rosa orphanage operators until Wednesday evening sat silently at the side of their attorneys, speaking only when their lawyers consulted them. When several of the government witnesses responded to cross examining by chief defense council

meeting of the board of directors. He said the directors felt perfectly satisfied with the deal "and felt the utmost confidence in Coleman and his wife."

"Are you acquainted with the general reputation of Mathes and Ruth Coleman as being honest and law-abiding citizens?" Allred asked the witness.

"I am," replied the witness.

"I'll ask you is it good or bad?" the defense counsel asked.

"Very good," was the reply.

"Isn't it true Mr. Juncan that if the Coleman's hadn't carried on a fund raising campaign there would not have been enough money to erect all of the nice buildings at the orphanage?"

"It is true."

"Do you think the Colemans have done a good job in running the orphanage?"

"If it hadn't been for the Colemans there wouldn't be a Negro orphanage in the valley today. I am proud to be on the board of directors."

It was during Mr. Juncan's testimony that U. S. Attorney Eckhardt asked the court that the witness be considered a defense witness although the government had subpoenaed him.

Asked Wednesday evening by this reporter if he would put on any witnesses Thursday, Mr. Allred replied that he didn't think the United States would rest their case until Friday.

(14) Tex

Runnel Smallwood of Harlingen, who is assisting Mr. Allred in the Colemans defense, told reporters Tuesday that the defense was preparing to call many prominent valley witnesses to take the stand in the behalf of the defendants.

The trial began last Monday morning. Thus far twenty-one witnesses have taken the witness stand for the United States government.

In addition to the witnesses prosecuting attorneys have introduced as evidence over eighty exhibits which include numerous photographs, letters and practically all of the Santa Rosa Orphanage records. Sat. 5-24-47

Seemingly, standing by the defendants "to the end" is the orphanage's Latin-American secretary, Miss S. C. Pena, who is on hand to comfort. Mrs. Coleman whenever Judge Hannay grants a brief recess. Mrs. Coleman has appeared in court everyday on a stretcher.

Highlight of the hearing Tuesday was testimony given by Autoro F. Garcia, former multigraph operator for the orphanage. He said the Colemans solicited funds from a list of 60,000 names.

Allred Wednesday, highly praised the integretics and characters of both Mr. and Mrs. Coleman the defendants brightened up and appeared cheerful. When testimony was resumed Thursday they were still in high spirits.

(14) Tex

Fred W Giese, who testified Wednesday that he had paid $8,-

856.23 to the Colemans in 1940 for rental payments for one half of the recently purchased 480 acres. He readily admitted on cross examination by Mr. Allred that he also had made further payments on the property with checks. The checks, he said, were not endorsed by Coleman but the orphanage instead.

Although a government witness, Mr. Giese concluded his testimony by saying he "once left $400 with Mr. Coleman without obtaining a receipt" because he trusted the defendant to that extent.

Another government witness which apparently played a big part in brightening up the Colemans was Joe K. Juncan, who also testified Wednesday.

Mr. Juncan it was learned is a furniture store operator and member of the orphanage board of directors. Sat. 5-24-47

Under direct examination by Government Attorney, Mr. Juncan testified that prior to the first of this year the board of directors had acted only in an advisory capacity at the school, and had left Mr. and Mrs. Coleman to run the orphanage to suit themselves. He said the directors met monthly with the defendants at which time Mrs. Coleman made a report to the board.

"Did you ever examine the records?" U. S. Attorney Eckhardt asked.

"No, I always took for granted the records were being kept satisfactorily by the Colemans," Mr. Juncan answered.

"Did you know the number of letters Ruth Coleman was sending out all over the country to solicit funds?"

"I knew about the fund raising campaign, the exact number of letters sent out I did not know."

Mr. Juncan said he sold a 1941 Cadillac to Coleman in 1944 after the board of directors had decided a means of transportation was needed to drive the orphans to church on Sundays.

Former Employee Of Defendants Is Witness For State

The Informer
Houston, Texas
(14) Texas
Sat. 5-24-47

By MARTIN MAYFIELD, Jr.
Staff Correspondent

BROWNSVILLE.—Autoro Francisco Garcia, star witness for the U. S. government produced thus far in the mail fraud case against Mathes H. Coleman and his wife, Mrs. Ruth W. Coleman, was being carried through a rigid cross examination by defense attorneys Wednesday morning as the trial continued in federal district court.

The hearing began in Federal Judge Allen B. Haney's District Court Monday morning with both defendants pleading innocent to all ten counts alleged in the indictment.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman are operators of the Santa Rosa orphanage about thirty miles from here. The charges against the couple alleges that they have become wealthy by soliciting funds for the school through the mails.

Mr. Garcia is the tenth witness that the government has put on the stand so far. Through him several of the charges made by the prosecuting attorney against the defense began to take form. But on the other hand, testimony given by Mr. Garcia as well as what seemed to be strong evidence introduced in connection with his testimony were being weakened as the defense attorney Roland Smallwood "crossed up" the Latin American in a heated cross examination exercise which began Tuesday and continued Wednesday morning.

Seven other government witnesses representing a cross section of the United States preceeded Mr. Garcia on the witness stand. Six of the seven witnesses testified that they had made many contributions to the orphan home after receiving letters from the Colemans stating the orphans were in dire need of donations.

The other witness, included in the eight witnesses to take the stand Tuesday, was Miss Carrie Lee Green, an employee at the postal inspector's office. She testified that she had written the Colemans informing them of her desires to make a donation if they would forward her some desired information about the establishment.

Miss Green admitted, however, in a cross examination by the defense attorney James V. Allred of Houston, that she had never sent a donation but mailed the letters only because she had been instructed to do so by the post office inspector who was making a case against the Colemans.

In response to direct examination led by Prosecuting U. S. Attorney W. R. Eckhardt of Houston Tuesday, Mr. Garcia said he had been previously employed by the Santa Rosa orphanage as the multigraph operator. He worked for the establishment "about one year and a half." He added he did not currently work for the school, having stopped sometime last year. As multigraph operator at the orphanage, the witness said he had printed and prepared many thousand letters and envelopes, all of which the Colemans sent to people all over the country, soliciting funds and acknowledging thanks for funds received.

In preparing the envelopes, Garcia said he used a list with over 60,000 names and addresses some of which were in every state in the union. One hundred and fifty letters were mailed to people in Texas, the witness said.

It was further brought out during the testimony of the multigraph operator that prior to his employment at the Santa Rosa school, he was a multigraph operator of W. F Pohalman of San Antonio. At that time Pohalman had contracted with the defendant to print their letters. Garcia testified that he performed the printing of the orphanage letters all during his employment with Mr. Pohalman. He began work for Pohalman "in 1940 or 41." Completing his testimony Garcia said he went to work for Mr. and Mrs. Coleman in 1944. At that time the defendants bought all of the equipment from his former employer, Garcia testified.

During the course of the prosecutor's interrogation of Mr. Garcia, Judge Hannay accepted into the evidence six letters alleged to have been prepared by the defendants in the alleged illegal fund raising campaign. The letters either requested funds or thanked benefactors for donations received. They all said the orphanage was in dire need of help. "The children are hungry and ragged, standing in need of food and clothes," one letter said.

Also accepted as evidence during Garcia's testimony was a number of photographs, among them three automobiles owned by the orphanage a Cadillac, Chrysler and a Dodge.

The federal attorneys are contending that the Cadillac and Chrysler were purchased for the personal use of the defendants. In connection with the letter is the government's contention also that Mr. and Mrs. Coleman had become wealthy and the orphanage prosperous, though the fund raising campaign letters mailed continuously made claims that the orphans were starving, ragged and the school very much in need of help.

A final phase of Mr. Garcia's response to direct examinations was to the effect that the orphans always had plenty food and clothing.

"Mr. Coleman drove the Cadillac while Mrs. Coleman drove the Chrysler."

The six witnesses who earlier during Tuesday's hearing testified that they had made contributions to the Santa Rosa school follows in the order they were put on the stand:

Michal O'Brien of Hammond, Ind.; C. E. Lienhard, Fort Scott, Kansas; John S Denig, Kenosha, Wis.; Mrs. Frances Zanier, Milwaukee, Wis. and [illegible] han, Louisville, Ky.

Ronald Smallwood of Harlingen, a lawyer for the defense along with A. D. Boyd of Athens, and Mr. Allred began cross examining Mr. Garcia by asking:

"You don't know who composed the letters you multigraphed?" "I know the letters were always handed to me by Mr. or Mrs. Coleman," the witness answered.

What was obviously an effort to weaken Garcia's previous testimony concerning the letters' claim that the children were very poor, although they were not, Mr. Smallwood asked:

"You were the multigraph operator, weren't you."

"Yes," Garcia answered.

"you didn't have anything to do with the feeding and clothing of the orphans did you?"

No," the witness replied.

"Then how can you sit and tell this jury that the orphans were not hungry and that they were not badly in need of clothing?" the defense counsel asked.

In replying to the last question by Mr. Smallwood, the witness said he had observed that the children of the orphanage wore good clothing. He did not, however, give a clear answer as to how he knew the children were never hungry.

As the cross examination of Mr. Garcia continued, it was brought out that the three automobiles previously discussed were old second hand models—the Cadillac and Chrysler 1940 models and the Dodge a 1930.

The highlight of the cross examination came when Smallwood asked:

"You hated the Colemans didn't you." And when the witness replied, "no," the counsel had him sign his name and write the word "hated" on a writing pad, after which the interrogation was resumed.

"Isn't it a fact that on August 11, 1945," the defense attorney asked, "you wrote this letter to your former employer, W. F. Pohalman of San Antonio?" Mr. Smallwood held up a letter.

"I might have written the letter." Garcia said.

"And isn't it a fact that in this letter you said you hated the Colemans and were sick and tired of working for them?"

"I might have said that," Garcia replied.

"Then as a matter of fact you did hate the Colemans," Smallwood shouted at the witness.

"I might have," was the reply.

The letter alleged to have been written by Mr. Garcia to Pohalman was accepted as evidence for the defense. Other exhibits introduced during Tuesday's hearing as evidence for the defense, were circulars signd by Dr. Paul R. Maxwell, Oscar Dancy, Cameron County judge, and Hugh Ramsey, former mayor of Harlingen. The circulars highly praised the Colemans for the splendid work they were performing in running the orphanage.

At present the Santa Rosa orphanage consists of twenty-five buildings and eighteen orphans. The establishment owns 599 acres of which 488 acres of the property is used as farm land.

One of the orphans is away at a Catholic convent in New Orleans studying to become a nun.

The defense is expected to put on some of their witnesses Thursday, the majority of which will be character witnesses. Father James Smith, pastor of the St. Anthony Catholic church here, will be first witness the defense will call in behalf of the Colemans.

Mail fraud charges against the Colemans were filed following a lengthy investigation conducted by the post office inspectors of Houston. As the third day of the trial got underway, Mrs. Coleman remained on the stretcher on which she has been confined since the hearing began. Mr. Coleman, who was injured recently in an automobile accident, is using crutches.

In addition to Mr. Eckhardt, other U. S. prosecuting attorneys are Joe Cash of Houston and Charles Bowie of San Benito.

Flogging of Ala. Woman Aired in Federal Court

Pittsburgh Courier (14a) Ala.

By James Edmund Boyack

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--The sordid story of a night terror in a Union Springs jail cell, reminiscent of the torture of Hitler's concentration camp victims, will be unfolded in the U. S. District Court here this week (May 12) when five white defendants go on trial for the brutal rubber-hose flogging of Mrs. Martha K. McMillan, 35-year-old colored bus station attendant.

They are Sheriff Joseph L. Pickett of Bullock County, 34; Ferrell Green, 32; Comer F. Green, 23; Reynolds G. Cook, 36; and his wife, Margaret Green Cook, 30, all residents of Union Springs county seat.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

HEAVY PENALTIES LIABLE

The accused are indicted under Sections 51 and 52, Title 18 of the U. S. Code. If found guilty on both counts they are liable to fines of $6,000 and eleven years imprisonment. In addition, if found guilty, Sheriff Pickett "shall be thereafter ineligible to any office, place of honor, profit, or trust created by the Constitution or laws of the United States."

United States Attorney E. Burns Parker said of Mrs. McMillan condition when she was brought to his office, "I never saw anyone so beat up."

Sat. 5-17-47

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Hartwell Davis.

Here is what allegedly happened on the night of Sept. 5, 1946:

THROWN IN CELL

The sheriff, the Green brothess and Cook went to Mrs. McMillan's home on Route 2, near Midway, to inquire if she had found any rings belonging to Mrs. Cook in the bus station above which the Cooks live.

They drove her to Union Springs jail, where she was thrown into a cell. The Greens and Cook followed her in. The sheriff stood outside. It was 10 P. M.

Inside the cell the three men threatened Mrs. McMillan, who began crying and kept pleading that she knew absolutely nothing about the rings.

As she faced her tormentors, her husband, the Rev. Mal McMillan, was attending a Baptist convention in Atlanta.

The sheriff left, to return later with a four-foot long rubber hose, which he allegedly passed through the bars to Verrell Green. Green began beating her across the face, shoulders and bare arms.

INMATES CLAMOR

Inmates of the jail heard her screams and set up a furore which could be heard outside.

At this, Green handed the rubber hose to Cook and pulled a pistol. He is said to have threatened Mrs. McMillan with immediated death if she continued to scream. The flogging continued for a half hour. She fell to the floor, where the three kicked her as Cook continued the beating.

Green then beat her until pieces of hose broke away

time later in the night they took the bleeding Mrs. McMillan out and drove her home.

On the way there, the sheriff is alleged to have said: "If you don't get those rings, I'm going to let them kill you the next time."

The defendants said they would kill her if she told anyone that she had been beaten in the jail. Sat. 5-17-47

THREATENED SECOND TIME

On Sept. 11, Mrs. Cook and Comer went to Mrs. McMillan's home and threatened her with arrest again, if she did not "find" the rings by the following night.

14a Ala.

But nexd day, Mrs. McMillan, now in a state of terror, left Union Springs by train with her husband for Montgomery. They immediately went to lay their case before N. W. Kimbrough, chief, Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety, and to seek protection. He made an appointment for them with the United States Attorney, who ordered photographs taken of Mrs. McMillan's welt-covered body.

The case was set for trial on March 3, but motions to dismiss it interposed. Due to the judge's misgivings, a new indictment was sought. It was returned on April 25.

Pittsburgh Courier May 17, 1947

Negro Fined, Jailed For Shooting Himself

Advertiser Montgomery

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 12. —(AP)— John Thomas Smith, Negro, was convicted today of a charge he had shot himself. County Judge G. C. Boner fined him $250 and sentenced him to 90 days in jail. Thu. 11-13-47

A warrant sworn to by sheriff's deputy W. D. Newsome charged that Smith "unlawfully and with malice aforethought did assault himself with intent to murder by shooting self with pistol."

Smith told the court he shot himself in the arm but did not intend to commit suicide. Sheriff Holt McDowell said Smith first told officers at the time of the shooting last month that he was wounded by a white man.

Sheriff's Nephew Jailed In Shooting

Defender Chicago (14a)

MOBILE, Ala.—The nephew of the Candler County sheriff was jailed in Metter, Ga., last week charged with assault with intent to kill in connection with the shooting of a Negro Friday afternoon.

The assailant, Cecil Flynt, whose uncle is Sheriff J. H. Flynt, was later released on bond pending court action at an undetermined date. His victim, James Fitzman, is in Metter Hospital in a critical condition. Sat. 11-8-47

According to reports, Flynt drove into a filling station on the town's main street where he was sure to find Fitzman. After he saw Fitzman, he is said to have shot him down with his shotgun. The warrant for Flynt's arrest was sworn out by Fitzman's relatives.

Jury Reindicts Five On Civil Rights Charge

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Bullock Sheriff Accused In Alleged Beating; 33 Bills Returned

Wed. 4-16-47

The Federal grand jury, in session here yesterday, re-indicated Sheriff Joseph L. Pickett of Bullock County, and four others, on charges of conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Martha McMillan, a Negro woman. From the district attorney's office it was stated that the new indictment was sought and obtained to correct possible defects of a technical nature in the wording of the original indictment, returned earlier this year. Indicted again with Sheriff Pickett were: Verrell Green, Reynolds G. Cook, Mrs. Margaret Green Cook, and Comer F. Green.

The government charges that the McMillan woman was unlawfully arrested and beaten, in an attempt to make her confess to a theft, of which she maintained her innocence. The indictment yesterday was by the newly convened grand jury, not the same body as returned the original indictment.

Negro Woman Tells Of Beating At Trial Of Bullock Sheriff

B'ham. Ala. News
Tues. 6-17-47

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 17—(AP)—The trial of Bullock County Sheriff Joseph L. Pickett and four other persons on charges of violating a Negro woman's civil rights was scheduled for resumption today before Federal Judge C. B. Kennamer.

During yesterday's testimony the Negro woman, Martha McMillan, wife of a Baptist preacher, told the court the sheriff together with Verrell Green and Reynolds G. Cook came to her house the night of Sept. 5, 1946, and accused her of stealing rings belonging to Mrs. Cook. Tues. 6-17-47

She testified that she was taken to jail without a warrant and that before she was removed from her home Verrell Green kicked her in the mouth.

* * *

AT THE JAIL, she continued, she was beaten with a rubber hose and then returned to her home.

Six days after the beating, the McMillan woman said, Mrs. Cook and Comer F. Green returned to her house and warned that if the rings were not returned within 24 hours the sheriff and the others "might visit me again.'

Cook, his wife, the two Greens and the sheriff were indicted by a federal Grand Jury Feb. 13.

* * *

THE DAY FOLLOWING the alleged beating, the woman testified, she complained to Capt. N. W. Kimbrough, of the State Law Enforcement Department and the investigation began. Kimbrough told the jury the woman was "pretty badly beaten up" and that her injuries appeared to be about a week old.

Defense attorneys contended that since the injuries appeared to be old they could have been inflicted in another manner. Judge Kennamer recessed the trial after the defense began a parade of character witnesses to the stand.

Two daughters of the McMillan woman, Doris and Arthurine McMillan, confirmed their mother's testimony. Tues. 6-17-47

Did Justice Triumph?

Sat. 3-1-47
Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

MONUTGOMERY, Ala.—Charged with arresting Miss Martha Kendrick McMillan "without lawful cause" and using "tortures and threats" to make her "confess," a sheriff and four accomplices were indicted by a U. S. Grand Jury here Friday.

Those named in the indictment were Sheriff Joseph L. Pickett, Verrel Green, Renolds G. Cook, Margaret Green Cook and Comer F. Green. All were released under $2000 appearance bonds.

The sheriff and his associates were charged with taking Miss McMillian to the county jail at Union Springs, then "whipped and beat her" in an attempt to make her confess to the alleged theft of a ring. Sat. 3-1-47

Lash Trial Prosecution Rests; Woman's Recital Challenged

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
14a) Ala.

By FRED THORNTON

A Negro woman, Martha McMillan, testified in U. S. District Court yesterday that she was beaten in jail at Union Springs by two white men, who wielded a 4 1-2 foot length of garden hose until it was worn down too short to use further. Tues. 6-17-47

She testified that the beating was administered in the presence of Bullock County Sheriff Joseph L. Pickett, who, when she cried out, drew a pistol and told her "don't be squalling here this time of night and disturbing the town." She said that she was beaten in an attempt to make her confess to an alleged theft, of which she knew nothing.

The case was that in which Sheriff Pickett, Reynolds G. Cook, his wife Margaret Green Cook, Verrell Green and Comer F. Green, brothers of Mrs. Cook, are charged with conspiracy to violate the McMillian woman's civil rights. She testified that Cook and Verrell Green did the beatang, and that earlier in the night, Verrell Green kicked her in the face, also in the presence of the sheriff, with such force as to loosen her teeth.

None of the defendants had taken the stand when court recessed Monday afternoon, until Tuesday morning. Richard T. Rives, of defense counsel, stated however that the defense will present evidence showing that the woman was questioned, and her home searched, with her consent, that she was not threatened, beaten, or abused in any way by any of the defendants.

After the Government rested, Monday afternoon, the defense introduced a witness, Marie Pendleton, a Negro woman, who testified that the McMillan woman told her that she received the beating, not from the defendants, but from "a man who worked in a store, because of a debt she owed him." Tues. 6-17-47

The defense also offered witnesses in an effort to impeach the general character, and reputation for truth and veracity, of the McMillan woman, with a number of witnesses testifying that "they would not believe her on oath." Her moral character was also attacked, in testimony offered by a Negro man.

The McMillan woman, mother of eight children and wife of a Negro Baptist minister, in her work as a maid at Union Springs, has access to apartments occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Cook. She testified that the doors of the apartment were not kept locked. After certain jewelry belonging to Mrs. Cook was found missing, the Negro woman said that she received a visit, on the night of Sept. 5, 1946, at her home near Midway, from Sheriff Pickett, Mr. Cook and Verrell Green. On what happened from then on, the prosecution and defense were widely at variance.

The McMillan woman testified that the sheriff and the other two drew guns in her home, that Verrell Green kicked her in the face, and that she was told that she knew what they had come for, without telling her what she was charged with. She testified that she was taken to the jail at Union Springs, and that Verrell Green and Cook took turns beating her with the hose there, and that later in the night was returned to her home, and told to say nothing about what had happened.

Six days later, according to the woman's testimony, Comer F. Green and Mrs. Cook came to her home and told her that if she did not produce the missing rings, she would be prosecuted, or "visited" again. The next day, she and her husband came to Montgomery, and went to Capt. N. W. Kimbrough, chief of the 'enforcement division of the State ing, and trat Tues. 6-17-47 'referred them to Asst. U. S. Dist. Atty. Hartwell Davis.

Capt. Kimbrough testified that the woman was "pretty badly beaten up," and that her injuries to the best of his judgment were about a week old. He stated that at request of Mr. Davis, he had pictures made of the woman, showing marks left by the blows. The pictures were offered in evidence by the Government.

The woman's daughter, Doris McMillan, testified that her mother showed bruises and injuries, when she saw her on the morning following her trip to Union Springs with the sheriff.

Two FBI agents, Henry Slate and P. A. Pratt, testified to going to Union Springs to investigate the case. They submitted written statements obtained from Sheriff Pickett, Verrell Green, and Cook, stating that they had questioned the woman and searched her house, but not beaten or abused her or taken her to jail. Agent Pratt testified, however, that Comer F. Green told him orally that he saw the McMillan woman taken from the jail that night by the sheriff.

Two defense witnesses, W. B. Homes, jailer at Union Springs, and Claude Griswold, chief deputy sheriff, testified that the McMillan woman was not brought to the jail on the night she claimed she was taken there and beaten. An array of prominent citizens of Bullock and adjacent counties testified to the good character and reputation of the defendants.

Witnesses who declared that the McMillan woman's general reputation was "bad" and that they would not believe her on oath in a court of justice, included W. W. Banks, J. W. Thomas, Clayton Hitchcock, Gus Orum, S. H. Presswell, and Otis Hulin. The defense had not finished its case when court recessed until today.

Jury Frees Bullock Sheriff, Four Others, Of Abuse Charge

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
Wed. 6-18-47

Sheriff Joseph L. Pickett of Bullock County and four co-defendants, charged with conspiracy to violate the civil rights of a Negro woman, Martha McMillan, were acquitted in U. S. District Court yesterday. Found not guilty, along with Sheriff Pickett, were Reynolds G. Cook, Mrs. Margaret Green Cook, Verrell Green and Comer F. Green. The jury was out 50 minutes. The government charged that the McMillan woman was beaten and threatened, in an attempt to make her confess to an alleged theft. The defendants denied that they used any violence or intimidation. Wed. 6-18-47

In the closing argument to the jury, District Attorney Burns Parker asked: "Can it be that down here you can lynch and beat up all the Negroes you want to—is that all right?" He asked, again, "If, sometime, a white woman should be beat up like that, what would we do about it?" Assistant District Attorney Hartwell Davis declared in the opening argument for the prosecution: "If this could happen to an almost friendless Negro woman, it might happen to a white person." He declared that "the sheriff of any county in Alabama could bring witnesses to impeach the character of any Negro who testified against him." He urged the jury to "not let prejudice write your verdict."

For the defense, Richard T. Rives declared that the case had been tried without any appeal to prejudice, passion, or State's rights. He declared that the testimony and character of the McMillan woman had been impeached by many witnesses, including members of her own race.

Charges "Frameup"

In another argument for the defense, John Blue Hill drew a picture of the FBI "swooping down like a bunch of vultures" and declared "a frameup is trying to be perpetrated here." He stressed the volume of testimony offered as to the good character of the defendants, and of other testimony that the McMillan woman possessed a bad character and was unworthy of belief.

All five of the defendants testified yesterday that Martha McMillan was not beaten, abused or threatened by any of them. Sheriff Pickett, Verrell Green, and Cook testified that they went to the woman's home about 12 miles from Union Springs, on the night of Sept. 5, 1946, after some jewelry belonging to Mrs. Cook was found to be missing. They said that they searched the woman's house, and that she accompanied them back to Union Springs, where they searched a room she occupied there at times. Their testimony was that the woman consented to the searches, and returned to Union Springs with them voluntarily, that she was not jailed or mistreated in any way.

Deny Threats

Mrs. Cook and Comer F. Green testified that they went to the McMillan woman's home nearly a week later, but denied any threats, beyond telling her that she would be prosecuted if the missing jewelry was not returned. Martha McMillan had worked as a maid in the apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Cook, from which the jewelry disappeared. She had testified the day before that she was beaten with a piece of garden hose, by Cook and Verrell Green, threatened, and jailed, in an attempt to make her confess. So far as was brought out at the trial, the missing jewelry has never been located.

The defense also offered testimony of wives of three of the defendants, Mrs. Pickett, Mrs. Verrell Green and Mrs. Comer Green. Their testimony in effect presented alibis for their husbands, being to the effect that they were with their wives at the time that the McMillan woman claimed she was being held. Similar testimony was given by Harry Goggins, a carpenter, who told of being driven to his home in Union Springs by Verrell Green before 10 p.m. while Martha McMillan had said that Green and the others did not return her to her home until well after midnight. Wed. 6-18-47

Agent Testifies

The prosecution offered rebuttal testimony of Gordon Smith, one of four FBI agents who investigated the case last October. Smith testified that Comer Green told him that Martha McMillan was placed in jail at Union Springs on the night of Sept. 5, that he went with the other three male defendants to the jail when she was removed from it, and accompanied them on the return trip to her home. This was at variance with the testimony of Sheriff Pickett, Verrell Green, and Cook, all having said that the woman was never taken to the jail. Comer Green denied from the stand yesterday having made such a statement to the FBI agent.

The prosecution also offered rebuttal testimony of several witnesses, who said that Martha McMillan was a woman of good character and reputation. The defense had previously offered numerous witnesses who testified that her character and reputation was bad. Wed. 6-18-47

The case went to the jury at 4 p.m. and the verdict clearing all defendants was returned at 4:50.

Negro Is Arrested On Warrant Issued Here Back In 1943

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Thurs. 9-11-47

Charlie Russell, 42-year-old Negro, was arrested yesterday on a warrant issued four years ago.

On April 26, 1943, James Hightower swore out the warrant charging Russell had assaulted Lucile Hightower with intent to murder her.

Birmingham, Ala.

The warrant had been returned to Judge H. B. Abernathy's court "not found" on May 10 of that year when it was learned that the Negro was out of town.

News

Last week, Lucile Hightower saw Russell working in a downtown drugstore and reported to C. S. Brooks, ex-offico judge in the court of misdemeanors and felonies. Thurs. 9-11-47

The old warrant was brought out and Russell was arrested by county deputies. He was released on $300 bond.

Federal Jury Indicts 5 Whites in Ala. for Beating Woman

Afro-American Sat. 3-1-47
Baltimore, Md.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ANP)—A sheriff and four others were indicted by a Federal grand jury here last Friday on charges of conspiracy in violating the civil rights of Mrs. Martha Kendrick McMillian, 35, by torturing threatening and arresting her without lawful cause.

Her assailants were Sheriff Joseph L. Pickett of Bullock County, Verell Green, Renolds G. Cook, Miss Margaret G. Cook and Comer F. Green, all white, who are charged with attempting to compel Mrs. McMillian to confess to the theft of a ring.

The indictment charged the five persons with going to the victim's home last September, taking her to the County jail at Union Springs, where they "whipped and beat her" before permitting her to return home. Sat. 3-1-47

Ala. Jury Frees 5 Whites Who Attacked Mother of 8

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ANP)—An all-white jury in U.S District Court here last week acquitted five white defendants, four men and a woman, of assault charges brought by Mrs. Martha McMillan, wife of a Baptist minister and mother of eight children. Sat. 6-28-47

The jury deliberated 50 minutes

Mrs. McMillan charged that she was deprived of her civil rights when the men took her from home one night last September and brutally beat her trying to force a confession that she stole jewelry from her employer, Mrs. R. G. Cook wife of one of the men.

Flogged by Brothers

She said two of the men flogged her with a fourfoot garden hose until it was too short to use any more, and one of them kicked her in the face loosening several of her teeth. Sat. 6-28-47

This, she declared, was done in the presence of Joseph L. Pickett, sheriff of Bullock County, in the Union Springs jail.

When she cried out in pain, the sheriff drew his gun and commanded, "Dont be squalling here this time of night and disturbing the town." Two of the men were brothers of Mrs. Cook.

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3 Men Arrested In Negro Attack

Montgomery, ~~Ala.~~ Advertiser

Man Is 'Cut To Shreds' Protecting His Son

Wed. 5-28-47 14a

BRUNDIDGE, ALA., May 27.—Three white men were arrested tonight on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon by the Pike County sheriff's department at Troy for what spectators called a "murderous and unprovoked" attack against a Negro in the Tarentum community.

Deputy Sheriff W. S. Furlow said that the Negro "may not live more than an hour." He identified the three white men as Curtis Strickland, Collier Strickland, and Morris Andrews, all of the Rocky Head community. Furlow said that if the Negro dies the charge will be murder. Wed. 5-28-47

The Negro, identified as F. T. Drummer, of the Tarentum community, was said to have been rescuing his son from the intimidation of the white men who were trying to take his bicycle and had already "stuck the child with a knife." The white men overtook the Negro and "cut him to shreds," witnesses reported, Deputy Furlow said.

JUSTICE IN PIKE COUNTY

14a

The sheriff of Pike County is to be commended for the prompt arrest of two white men charged with unprovoked attack on a 12-year-old Negro boy and his father.

The report of two grown men knocking a little boy off his bicycle and then knifing him is about as ugly a story as Alabama has sent out to the world in a long while. Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

Not content with this atrocity, the brothers, Collis and Curtis Strickland, are reported to have tried, unsuccessfully, to enter a nearby store where the wounded boy had taken refuge with his father. Two other white men stopped the knifers. But when the father attempted to escape, they caught him and cut him to pieces.

There may be places in the South where such conduct is accepted with complacency, but Alabama is not one of them. The vast majority of Alabamians feel only revulsion and indignation in this outrage. Such wanton, stupid brutality is un-American and un-Southern. It should be dealt with promptly and firmly. Thurs. 5-28-47

No state or nation can be healthy and strong if part of the population is subjected to unrestrained and unpunished violence.

This nation fought and destroyed a man in Germany who built his power upon cruelty to helpless minorities. We want none of that here at home. We want officials like the sheriff of Pike County who, apparently, takes his oath of office seriously and is upholding the true dignity of American justice. Thur. 5-28-47

Arkansas Court Awards Victim of Beating $1125

Sat. 3-8-47

14a

Afro-American

JONESBORO, Ark. — (ANP)— A verdict was handed down in favor of John Bennett in Circuit Court here, Feb. 17, awarding him $500 in actual damages and $625 punitive damages, from two whites for a pistol beating near here, last August. Baltimore, Md.

The defendants were J. C. Thornberry and Dewey F. Trayner of Marianna. Testimony showed that the two men attacked Bennett on a lonely stretch of Highway No. 1, six miles south of Jonesboro and inflicted head injuries with a pistol and blackjack. Sat. 3-8-47

State Denies Pardon For Tenant Farmer

14a

Ill

Chicago Defender

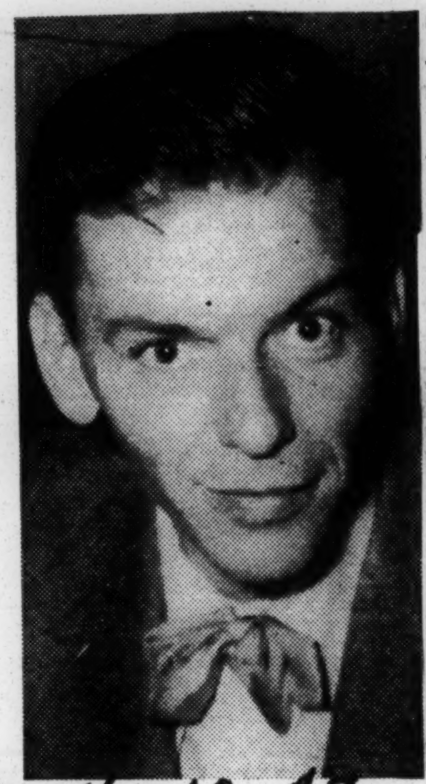
LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—The State Board of Pardons, Paroles and Probations refused Wednesday to approve an application for clemency for Tee Davis, Crittenden county tenant farmer, sentenced in 1943 to serve 10 years for an alleged assault on a Crittenden county deputy sheriff. 9-20-47

It was the fourth time in two years that the board had rejected Davis' clemency petition.

The tenant farmer was convicted of shooting Harold Weaver, a reputed bull-dozing Negro-hating officer, who visited Davis' home in company with a white civilian, and threatened to kill him on sight, if he did not open the door.

PM New York, N.Y. Thurs. 4-10-47

Lee Mortimer, movie columnist for the New York *Daily Mirror*, gets his head examined by Dr. Lloyd P. Taine Tainter after being bopped by Frank Sinatra, right.



Associated Press Wirephotos

Sinatra Faces Trial For Bending An Ear

PM New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 4-10-47

Frank Sinatra, who looks so fragile to the uninformed that legend has it he clings to the microphone out of sheer weakness, has been arrested at Hollywood charged with battery for taking a sock at Lee Mortimer, movie columnist for the New York *Daily Mirror*. The Trial of the Century is set for May 27 at 10 a.m. in Beverly Hills police court.

Mortimer, complaining of severe pain from injuries diagnosed as a swollen left cheek, swelling behind the left ear and bruises of the right wrist, signed the complaint, charging that the spindly crooner hit him without warning or provocation in the foyer of Ciro's in Hollywood.

Sinatra Is 'All Mixed Up'

"I passed his table and nodded a greeting," said Sinatra. "He called me a dago and I saw red. I followed him outside. I hit him. I'm all mixed up."

Sinatra said he was sorry it happened but pointed out that he was raised in a tough section of North Jersey where you learned to fight at the drop of a hat. Mortimer, he said, had been "needling" him for two years in his column.

Called Fans 'Morons'

Thurs. 4-10-47

"He referred to my bobby-soxer fans at morons," Sinatra cited. "I don't care if they do try to tear your clothes off. They're not morons. They're only kids."

Surprise to many was the fact that Sinatra has always been handy with his fists. His father fought professionally as Marty O'Brien and Frankie appeared in a few amateur bouts in his teens. Through the years the prize ring has been one of his passions. He is known as a long-time friend and sponsor of the aspiring Tami Maurielli and recently has been talking about organizing a chain of boxing clubs on the West Coast.

Mortimer said yes, he had needled Sinatra in print because "I don't think he's a good singer and I've questioned his efforts to be a leader of youth."

Thurs. 4-10-47

Sinatra was scheduled to leave for New York last night, free in $500 bail, to receive the Thomas Jefferson Award from the Council Against Intolerance in America.

SINATRA ARRESTED ON BATTERY CHARGE

The Times New York, N.Y.

Singer Held for Trial May 27 on Columnist's Complaint of Slugging in Hollywood

Thurs. 4-10-47

HOLLYWOOD, April 9 (U.P.)—Frank Sinatra was arrested in the middle of a tune today and hauled off to court where he pleaded not guilty to a charge of hitting Lee Mortimer, New York columnist, outside Ciro's restaurant last night. The singer accused the columnist of insulting him.

This afternoon two burly investigators picked up the crooner on a battery warrant at the Columbia Broadcasting Company studio where he was rehearsing for a broadcast.

The singer said with a grin that he couldn't produce $500 bail when he was brought before Judge Bert Woodward in Beverly Hills justice court. So obliging newspaper men, lawyers and court spectators provided the necessary funds.

"I waive reading of the complaint," said the crooner affably, "and request a trial late next month."

The judge set May 27 for a jury trial on the battery complaint, signed by Mr. Mortimer.

The columnist, gingerly stroking the left side of his head where the singer's fist connected, said that was all right.

There were hours of indecision before the arrest. Mr. Mortimer got out of bed at the Beverly-Wilshire Hotel this morning with the announcement that he would wait to see the X-rays of his injury before he took any action.

Columnist Consults Official

About noon he showed up at Judge Woodward's court and conferred for two hours with Assistant District Attorney M. F. Howard. After numerous telephone calls he signed the battery complaint.

Meanwhile the crooner, assured he would have plenty of time to surrender, wound up make-up tests for a motion picture at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and confidentially sauntered to the rehearsal at the CBS Vine Street Playhouse.

"Oh, What a Beee-yoo-tiful Morrrrning," he was crooning when two men from the District Attorney's office strode down the aisle and led him away.

He walked briskly into the court.

"I plead innocent and wish a jury trial," he said in a firm voice.

His smile became sheepish during the bail episode and practically disappeared when Under-Sheriff Arthur Jewell gently told him his permit to carry a gun had been suspended.

He took out the permit before going to Cuba two months ago. It was there that he allegedly saw Lucky Luciano, an occurrence which was lambasted in Mr. Mortimer's column but staunchly denied by Mr. Sinatra.

Hollywood circles believed this incident touched off last night's one-punch match.

Everyone agreed that the crooner struck the newspaper man in the foyer of Ciro's. But exactly why was a moot point.

"For two years he's been needling me," said the crooner. "He called me a Dago. I saw red."

The Times

Said Mr. Mortimer:

"I was standing on the steps outside the restaurant when I was hit without warning from behind."

Mr. Sinatra, weighing 130 pounds, said he entered the club alone and joined some friends. He spied the columnist at a table and nodded in greeting.

New York, N.Y.

"He gave me a look," said the singer. "I can't describe it. It was one of those contemptuous, 'Who do you amount to' looks. I followed him outside. I hit him. I'm all mixed up."

Thurs.

Sinatra said he was sorry the incident happened.

4-10-47

"Mortimer has referred to my bobby-soxer fans as morons," he declared. "I don't care if they do try to tear your clothes off. They're not morons. They're only kids."

The crooner's attorney, Albert Pearlson, insisted that the columnist lunged at his client first.

The 135-pound columnist had a different version of the fracas for reporters after he went to the hospital for $17.50 worth of X-rays.

4-10-47

"I went to Ciro's with a Chinese singer, Kay King. We were talking about an engagement in New York. I didn't even see Sinatra in the room. We left and next thing I knew several men grabbed me."

Time 4-21-47

Associated Press

MORTIMER & SINATRA (IN COURT)

Stature from a slug . . .

Words & Music

Time Chicago, Ill.

At a Hollywood nightclub, **Frank Sinatra** slugged a Hearst columnist.

14a

Five days later the affair was still not on the United Nations agenda; but a lot of people probably wondered why not. On both U.S. coasts, day after day, Hearstpapers gave the story headlines and space almost fit for an attempted political assassination.

Mon. 4-21-47

Frankie said he had overheard the columnist—Lee Mortimer of the New York *Daily Mirror*—refer to him as "that Dago son of a bitch." So he hit him in the jaw, once, and knocked him down. Mortimer said he was "just minding my own business"—leaving the place with an Oriental girl friend—when Frankie snuck up behind him and hit him back of the left ear. Then, said Mortimer, "at least two men" held him and he was slugged some more.

Frankie was charged with battery and freed on $500 bail. He would be tried by a jury May 27. He flew off to Manhattan, where the Council Against Intolerance in America gave him a prize for other efforts. Manhattan's left-winging tabloid *PM*, on Frankie's side, dignified the brawl with a 1,000-word editorial. (He "must have warmed the hearts of millions," said *PM*—but conceded that this was probably not the best way to strike a blow at race prejudice.) In the Hearstpapers—which painstakingly reviewed Frankie's association with left-wing groups, his 4-F draft status, his crooning activities during the war, his meeting with ex-super-pimp Charles "Lucky" Luciano in Havana—little-noted Columnist Mortimer suddenly attained the stature of a Dreyfus, and a fortune's worth of publicity.

Chicago, Ill.

Fellow Columnist Earl Wilson muttered plaintively in the New York *Post*: "Won't somebody swing at me? Anybody at all."

14a 1947

Connecticut

Charge Woodard's Wife With Assault on Policeman in Conn.

Afro-American Sat. 5-3-47

Baltimore, Md.

HARTFORD, Conn. (ANP)—Police probation officers are investigating the case of assault brought against the wife of Isaac Woodard, blind ex-service man who lost his sight last year as a result of brutality by Southern police. Sat. 5-3-47

The assault charges grew out of a recent visit to the Woodard's home by Policeman William J. Santame, who said he was attacked from behind by Mrs. Hazel Woodard as he walked into the house.

Mrs. Woodard told the magistrate: "I haven't a job, my husband is learning to type and play the piano and we have to live on $65 a month. I took four drinks to try to forget. I'm not used to liquor, and I must have gone crazy."

Woodard's Wife Blames Worry For Drink, Attack On Police

Chicago Defender 9-6-47.

Chicago, Ill

HARTFORD, Conn. — (ANP)—Police probation officers are investigating the case of assault brought against the wife of Issac Woodard, blind ex-serviceman who lost his sight last year as a result of brutality by southern police.

The assault charges grew out of a recent visit to the Woodard's home by Policeman William J. Santame. According to his testimony, Santame was attacked from behind by Mrs. Hazel Woodard as he walked into the house. Before she could be subdued by other officers and taken to jail, she inflicted a number of cuts, scratches and abrasions on Santame.

At a hearing in police court here Mrs. Woodard told the judge that she "shouldn't hate all policemen because of the action of one, but it was just the way things piled up." Sat. 9-6-47

"I haven't a job, my husband is learning to type and play the piano and we have to live on $65 a month," she said. "I took four drinks to try to forget. I'm not used to liquers, and I must have gone crazy." 9-6-47

Isaac is taking up piano and typewriting lessons at the Old Farms Convalescent hospital in Avon, Conn.

14a 1947

Court Martial (Japan)

3 GI's in Japan Get Long Terms . .

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.

KOBE, Japan—(NNPA)—Three American soldiers, convicted on charges of assault and robbery, were given heavy sentences in prison by a general court martial here May 14. MC sat. 6-14-47

Pfc Melvin Maddox, 15 Crawford place, Atlanta, and Pvt. Frank B. Robinson, 807 Saulineir St., Houston, Tex., were jointly convicted on charges of robbery of Japanese goods and criminal assault and given life imprisonment.

Pvt. Herman Major, 2100 Fifth Ave., New York City, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for robbery. The convictions and sentences will be subject to review by higher military authorities. Sat. 6-14-47

14a D.C.

Tickled Stabber Freed by Sympathetic Jurist

Afro-American, Baltimore, md.

Finicky Government Employee Had Been Goaded Into Slashing at Tormentors

Sat. 10-25-47.

WASHINGTON

Arguments that he had stabbed a white fellow worker at the Government Printing Office six times in the chest only after he had been tickled to extreme provocation, won freedom for William H. Hawkins, 44, by a District Court jury last week on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Defense counsel for Hawkins was Chauncey D. Artis, who also argued that it was unfair to play with his client and then become enraged when the man could not control himself.

Mr. Hawkins, who lives in the 600 block of 60th St., N.E., said some one tickled him, causing him to throw a soft drink he was holding into the face of John C. Estes, white, of the 1800 block of 41st Pl., S.E., in a washroom of the Government Printing Office.

After the tickling and the soda pop throwing, a fight ensued in which the white man was stabbed with a sharp measuring instrument.

Sat. 10-25-47

Mr. Artis also brought out that an order had been circulated that anyone tickling Hawkins would be suspended. At the trial, Estes admitted that he had tickled Mr Hawkins on previous occasions but not on that occasion.

The defense attorney contended that he would not admit it, through fear of losing his job.

Mr. Hawkins is said to have been "fired" at the GPO, but since the "not guilty" verdict, Mr. Artis has stated that it was going to take up the matter with the Civil Service Commission with the object of having him restored to duty.

Shoots At Kids; Wounds Three

Daily World 14a D.C.

Atlanta, Georgia.

WASHINGTON— (ANP) —"I am sorry now that I shot them," said John M. Gatling, a white Washington resdient, after having fired a shotgun blast at four Negro children, three of whom were wounded slightly.

10-21-47

"I'm glad that I didn't hurt them any more than I did," Gatling told police.

Lea.

The three injured children were Barbara Kyler, 10, struck in the head; Henry Russell, II, struck in the arm, and Algernon Thomas, 10, also struck in the arm. The fourth child was not injured.

The children were on their way to Payne school when the shooting occurred.

Ga.

Gatling is alleged to have told detectives that the children had been "tormenting" him, going on his porch and "bothering his things." Said they had been breaking bottles in the back alley and once tipped over a cement flower pot which he had on the railing of his front porch. He said he got mad when the children cursed him and went into the house to get his gun. When he returned, the children were almost a block away. However he fired at them, hoping to shoot over their heads.

Gatling was booked on three charges of assault with a dangerous weapon.

14a 1947

Georgia

A Shocking Verdict

Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

The verdict of "Not Guilty" returned by a jury of 12 white men in Walton County at Monroe, Georgia on Monday afternoon in the case of the State vs. James Verner on charges of battery and assault against Golden Lamar Howard, 19-year old youth, no doubt, came as a shocking surprise and disappointment to the Negro citizens of that county and the state at large. We believe this to be especially true of those citizens who heard the facts presented at the trial which included a bold admission by Verner that he beat young Howard until his knuckles were bloody and who further stated to local officers "I would beat the hell out of him again if he told another lie on me." (14a) Ga.

Howard testified at the trial that on January 1st James Verner and his younger brother Tom Verner came to the ice house where he was employed and demanded of him what he said to the Federal Grand Jury which investigated the Monroe lynchings. They beat him in an attempt to extract the information that he had given the Federal body, he said. In his defense James Verner testified at the trial that he beat Howard because he had at some previous time forced him off the road in his car.

Wed. 2-26-47

Nevertheless, the vigorous and, we believe, sincere manner in which Solicitor Pollard prosecuted the case will offer some consolation to those Negroes who believe in looking to law enforcement officials for protection under the law. He very correctly stated in summing up his argument before the jury for a conviction that an important principle was involved in the case and that only because of the race of the victim could the jury bring in a verdict of "Not Guilty."

The veridct in the case, in our opinion, adds more emphasis to our previously stated contention that in order for Negroes to be assured of justice thru the courts in cases involving the two races that the Negro must be given more representation on juries which in the final analysis must mete out justice. We believe this to be necessary before the Negro can really get the physical protection that he is entitled to use as a citizen. We can understand how it is possible for those white men on the jury who contend for equal justice for the Negro to be overwhelmed by their fellow jurors. Wed. 2-26-47

On the other hand James Verner and his brother, Tom, are under a federal indictment, charged with intimidating witness in connection with the same attack against the Howard youth. They are under a $10,000 bond each and trial is expected at Athens in the near future. It will be up to a federal jury next to decide the fate of the Verners.

Ga. Police Probe Flogging of Pair

14a Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

DECATUR, Ga. (ANP)—DeKalb County police last week were investigating the flogging of Mr. and Mrs. Aggie Herndon at their home on Wesley Chapel road near Lithonia by a band of white men, but were at a loss to establish a motive in the crime.

Meanwhile, the victims are nursing severe wounds of the head and body as the result of the attack by four unmasked white men who pretended to be policemen seeking stolen articles, took them into the woods, administered a brutal flogging and shot the woman. Sat. 4-12-47

Well-known and respected in the community, the Herndons could give no reason for the beatings. DeKalb County Police Chief Edward L. Foster was at a loss to explain the crime after several days of probe.

Invited In the Search

The Herndons were sitting in their modest home around 9:30 o'clock Monday night, March 31, when they heard a car drive up, the occupants alight and come up to the door, pounding and demanding entrance on the pretext of being "the law."

Permitted to enter, the men told Herndon they were looking for stolen goods. Herndon invited them to search the house, saying: "If you're the law. I've got receipts for everything here."

Apparently angered by Herndon's invitation, one of the intruders seized Herndon's shotgun and forced the victims out of the house and into the waiting automobile.

Woman Found Next Morning

The Herndons were taken to Arabia Lake where a pistol, flashlight and blackjack were employed. One of the men placed his foot on Mrs. Herndon's neck while continuing the flogging.

Another allegedly shot her in the legs, whereupon Mr. Herndon broke and ran through the woods to a white residence about a mile away. Sat. 4-12-47

Police were called, but failed to find Mrs. Herndon until the next morning when the 40-year-old matron came out of the woods, dazed and injured.

Claims Police, Grady Doctor Assaulted Her

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga., Thurs. 9-11-47

(14a) Ga.

Thurs. 9-11-47

Mrs. Maude Sims, of R 144 Moore St., told a World reporter in an interview, Tuesday that her 19-year old daughter, Mrs. Willie Mae Stevenson, was carried to Grady hospital with a broken shoulder Monday and was beaten and kicked by one of the attending physicians and a City policeman stationed there.

According to the mother's story, the young girl, who, under the influence of intoxicants, had tumbled from a two story window of a Decatur Street residence and was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Unable to procure immediate attention for her injured daughter the mother said she took her back home. Shortly afterwards, policemen came and informed the injured girl that they would have to take her back to the hospital and book her for being drunk, the mother related.

Accompanying the officers and her daughter on the return trip to the hospital, the mother said a young medic there approached her and told her to stay away from the hospital. Thurs. 9-11-47

MEDIC ATTACKS MOTHER

Later during the day, the mother said the young doctor approached her again as she was standing outside of the clinic, and in a rage started beating her across the head with a pair of scissors saying "Didn't I tell you to stay away from here!" (14a) Ga.

Offering no resistance to the doctor's attack, Mrs. Sims said she strode from the hospital and while standing outside was startled to see her daughter run out of the clinic into her arms. In close pursuit was the same young medic, the mother asserted. When he reached the two he lunged out and grabbed the injured girl and started choking her, continued the mother. All she could do was gasp for breath, she added. When her daughter fell to the ground, the medic kicked her in the face, Mrs. Sims said.

KICKED UPON DEPARTURE

When the patrol wagon came to remove her to the jail, the victim remarked that the policeman on duty kicked her as she left the door. (14a) Ga.

Asked if there were any witnesses to the brutality, the mother replied that there were several witnesses who saw the inhuman scene that took place just outside the clinic where the doctor choked and kicked her daughter. There were at least three whom she knew personally, she added. Thurs. 9-11-47

During the interview at her home Tuesday, her face was considerably swollen and showed definite signs of mistreatment. A mark on the left side of her face testified to a probable injury by kicking. Then, too the robe she reportedly wore during the ordeal was ripped and torn, revealing gaping holes.

DOCTOR GIVES "SIDE"

The reporter learned Wednesday that it was Dr. William Patterson, Jr., who treated the patient. He admitted an unusual development in the case and related unhesitantly his side of the story. Thurs. 9-11-47

The patient was brought to the hospital drunk, the medic asserted and he was about to administer aid to her, he allegedly discovered she had unauthoritatively left the hospital with her mother. A request was made that the police pick the patient up, the doctor continued, as she was technically under police custody on a drunken charge.

When the patient was returned, the physician said he warned the mother to stay away from the hospital because it was she who took the patient away the first time.

SHOULDER FRACTURED

Making an x-ray of the shoulder and discovering that it was fractured, Dr. tPatterson disclosed that he placed the shoulder in a cast. Shortly after this was done, the patient fled from the clinic in an attempt to escape, he continued. The medic said he followed in pursuit and finally apprehended the patient as she ran into her mother's arms. Attempting to return Mrs. Stevens to the clinic, the physician claimed he was bitten by her and it was then he retaliated with a slap. With the aid of the officer on duty, he finally returned the patient to the clinic where another cast had to be made since Mrs. Stevenson had broken the first one when she fell in her attempt to elude him, Patterson said. (14a) Ga.

Other than the slap no other assault was made on the patient, he asserted.

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

In reply to the mother's charge that he assaulted her, the doctor explained that he "rapped" the mother across the head after she disobeyed his request to stay away from the clinic. Thurs. 9-11-47

The doctor said that he had witnesses to substantiate his side of the story.

Man Is Fined $52 On Assault Charge

(14a) Ga.

ATLANTA Daily World

In an effort to protect himself, his wife and his four-year-old daughter from being shot by an irate Magnolia streetcar motorman, Charlie Walker, of 551 Butler St., N. E. was arraigned before Recorder's court Tuesday and fined $52 on an assault and battery charge. 9-24-47

The World learned Tuesday the true side of the story which discounted reports from other sources that the accused was in a drunken condition. Even the charge on which he was tried discounted the assumption that he was drunk. In reality, it was just another case among the many others where trigger-happy motormen have sought to infringe upon the rights of Negroes because they have a gun to back them up.

Walker, his wife and child boarded the car Monday at Broad and Alabama Sts. Upon boarding the car Walker asked the motorman, H. McDaniel, if he had to pay for his daughter. When the motorman reportedly made no reply, Walker and his family moved to the back of the car after depositing fare for his wife and himself. Wed.

After the car had passed Alabama Street, the motorman was said to have stopped the car, approached Walker and asked him if he was going to pay for his so and so kid. A few words were passed and Walker went to the front of the car and deposited fare for his daughter. At that point the motorman was said to have unzipped his leather bag and whipped out his revolver, endangering the lives of not only Walker and his family but also the many other Negroes abroad.

Walker grabbed for the gun and a tussle ensued. During the tussle a group of white men boarded the car through the front door which was left open by the motorman and the gun was tossed to one of them. The motorman was said to have backed out of the fight and a Greyhound bus driver took it up.

The unknown white person given the gun bandished it dangerously forcing them to pile toward the rear. Shortly afterwards, police arrived and placed Walker under arrest.

As expected, the proverbial knife entered the picture, however, no knife was in Walker's possession at any time during the affray. Nor was any knife produced at the trial of Walker. Wed.

Walker was convicted before he was tried, for although there were no white pasesngers aboard the car when the scuffle started, an army of them appeared at the trial to give testimony. The only possible whites to the affray were those who boarded the car after the tussle had begun. They were already and itching to give their conspired version of the incident. One among that number, when leaving the courtroom was heard to say, "That n-- had better not become involved with a motorman again, or we'll kill him."

Swift "justice" was meted Walker although he did what any other devoted, courageous father would have done, had his family been exposed to similar danger.

Thus ends another episode of the "gun-toting" motormen and the Negro.

New Flogging 'Baffles Georgia County Police

14a Chicago, Ill.
Chicago Defender

DECATUR, Ga.—De Kalb County police investigating the flogging last week of a Negro and his wife by a band of white men remained this week at a loss to establish a motive for the crime.

Suffering severe wounds of the head and body as a result of the attack by four unmasked men are Aggie Herndon, 46, and his wife, Lottie. The white men entered the Herndons' home last week saying they were police in search of stolen articles, took the couple into the woods, flogged them both and shot the woman.

Well known and respected in the community, the Herndons could give no reason for the beatings. De Kalb County Police Chief Edward L. Foster was at a loss to explain the crime after several days of investigation. Sat.

Heard Car

The Herndons were sitting in their home around 9:30 o'clock on Monday night, March 31, when they heard a car drive up, the occupants alight and come up to the door, pounding and demanding entrance on the pretext of being "the law." 4-12-47

Permitted to enter, the men told Herndon they were looking for stolen goods. Herndon invited them to search the house.

One of the intruders seized Herndon's shotgun and forced the victims out of the house and into the waiting automobile.

The Herndons were taken to Arabia lake where a pistol, flashlight and blackjack were employed. One of the men placed his foot on Mrs. Herndon's neck while continuing the flogging. Another allegedly shot her in the legs, whereupon Mr. Herndon broke and ran through the woods to a white residence about a mile away. Police were called, but failed to find Mrs. Herndon until the next morning when she came out of the woods, dazed and injured.

White Employer Held In Attack

14a Ga.
Daily World

Fourteen-year-old Charles Roland of 7 Solomon St., S. E. received a fractured skull Wednesday when he said his white employer of the Custom Plastic Shop, 332 Woodward Ave., S. E. struck him over the head with a table leg.

Roland told officers that he returned to his job Wednesday after having laid off the previous day because of sickness. His employer, Hugh Phillips, 39, of Rex, Ga., fussed at him for laying off the job the youth said. Telling Phillips he was sick the day before, the youth said Phillips accused him of calling him a lie and hit him over the head with the table leg.

Phillips' version was that young Roland called him a lie and both reached for the table and he succeeded in reaching it first and struck the youth. Atlanta Ga.

Phillips was arrested on a charge of assault and battery. Roland's condition was reported as fair late Friday. Sat. 12-6-47

NEGRO WOMAN SHOT ON CAR, WHITE MAN GIVEN $200 FINE

14a Ga. World
Atlanta, Ga.

BY C. LAMAR WEAVER

J. D. Bradfield, 67-year-old Stone Mountain Ga. white man accused of shooting Mrs. Lucy Pyron, of 990 Ashby Terrace, on a River streetcar last June 7, was tried in Fulton Superior court Thursday and found guilty of assault with intent to murder.

After the jury had fixed his sentence at one year and recommended it be considered as a misdemeanor by the court, Judge Virlyn B. Moore reprimanded the accused for his actions and imposed a fine of $200 and a suspended sentence of 12 months.

STATE WITNESSES

Three colored witnesses testified that the trouble on the car began when a dispute over a seat on the car arose between a white man, T. C. Garrett, and two Negroes. These disputers were alleged to have entered into an altercation and Bradfield, a nightwatchman, came to the rear of the car and intervened, brandishing his revolver. Immediately the Negro passengers are said to have scrambled toward the rear of the car to escape the potential danger of the irate gun wielder. As the passengers were filing out of the rear door, Bradfield fired into the group, the witnesses said, and shot Mrs. Pyron.

The wounded woman, critically shot in the liver, remained in the hospital a month before being released. During her coninement, attending physicians had little hope of her recovery and termed her rally "a miracle." Fri.

THE "PROVERBIAL KNIFE"

Bradfield's defense was that Mrs. Pyron was threatening him with a knife when he shot her. His testimony was corrorborated by Garrett, who was previously fined for his participation in the seating squabble and for being drunk on a public vehicle.

The moterman in charge of the car gave testimony that largely affirmed the statements of the three colored witnesses. He admitted seeing no knife in Mrs. Pyron's possession. 12-19-47

JUDGE ASSAILS ACCUSED

In reprimanding the accused, Judge Moore averred that he had committed "a very bad thing" and expressed belief that no knife was involved whatsoever.

"Such things as this," the magistrate declared," are what cause race riots. People like you should not be allowed to carry guns."

After asking Bradfield if he had been drinking and having received a negative reply, the judge told him he had no business going into the rear of the car intervening into the squabble. "The woman you shot might have died, he said, and it's lucky you aren't being tried for murder." Fri. 12-19-47

"It's hard to make a decision in a case like this," the Judge continued, "for you're too old to go to the chaingang, yet such actions should not go unpunished," He then passed sentence on the accused.

ATTY. DUKE. ASSISTED

Assistant Solicitor William Boyd presented a forceful case for the state and was ably assisted by Attorney Dan Duke, hired by the victim to assist the state.

It was Atty. Duke who was instrumental in having Bradfield

Attorney Dan Duke, hired by Mr. Pyron to assist in the prosecution, disclosed that his service has been retained to institute a civil suit against Bradfield and the bondsman who supplied bond to license Bradfield to carry a pistol.

All White Jury System Scored In Mozley Case

Daily World 14a
Atlanta, Ga.
Tue. 11-11-47

Attempted Assault Charge Reduced To Assault, Battery

MARIETTA, Ga. — (SNS)—Challenging the constitutionality of an indictment charging a 13-year-old Marietta youth, Charles Mozley, with attempted criminal assault on a 72-year old white woman, Attorney Dan Duke succeeded in having the charges reduced to assault and battery whereby Mozley was sentenced to one year.

The former Assistant Attorney General managed a reduction in charges despite the solicitor's persistant demands for a 20 year sentence for the defendent.

Mozley stated that he had been playing bandit near the scene of the alleged attack, having been so influenced by movies he had seen. This was said to have accounted for the mask he was reportedly wearing.

Atty. Duke asserted that apparently the grandmother became startled when Mozley jumped out from some nearby bushes in performance of his bandit capers.

Tue. 11-11-47

DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

In moving to quash the indictment, Duke charged that Negroes are excluded from grand jury duty in Cobb county by placing their names on sheets of yellow paper. Considering the fact that names of whites are placed on white slips, the practice of discrimination could be easily practiced, he declared.

Mozley, a mild mannered 6th grade pupil, was accused of attempted criminal asault on a 72-year-old white grandmother last July 22 as she was picking blackberries with her two granddaughters.

14a 1947

Georgia

Brothers Held In Beating of Walton Youth

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga. Sun. 1-5-47

In the first arrests since the Walton County slayings of four Negroes in July, the Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday took into custody two brothers accused of assaulting a Negro who had testified at the December Federal Grand Jury probe of the killings in session at Athens.

Edwin J. Foltz, Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta FBI office, listed the two men as James Verner, 36, and Tom Verner, 26, of Campton. They were arrested at Gratis and taken before U. S. Commissioner J. T. Middlebrook at Athens for arraignment on charges of conspiracy to intimidate a witness, and after waiving a preliminary hearing both were released under bonds of $10,000 each.

The bonds were signed by H. Lee Peters, of Walton County. He listed as security 306 acres of land.

Golden Lamar Howard, 19, the witness, reportedly was brought to Atlanta Thursday night for medical treatment. He told FBI agents two white men had taken him, at pistol point, to the rear of the ice plant where he was employed in Monroe and had beaten him because he would not disclose testimony he gave to the Grand Jury.

In Washington FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said a .38-caliber revolver and a German Luger pistol were found in James Verner's room. He said Tom Verner, home on leave from military service, is under orders to report to Fort Bragg tomorrow.

The complaint against the Verner brothers was authorized by United States District Attorney John P. Cowart, who earlier had said if Howard's story proved true, prosecution of the Negro's assailants would "reasonably follow, since it is a violation of the law to tamper with a witness." Sun. 1-5-47

Georgia Negro Tells FBI He Was Beaten For Failure To 'Talk'

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Fri. 1-3-47

ATLANTA, Jan. 3—(AP)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation had today the story of a 19-year-old Walton County Negro who said he was beaten by two white men because he would not divulge his testimony before a U. S. grand jury probing the bloody lynching near his home town last July 25.

The youth, giving his name as Lamar Howard of near Monroe, Ga., told of the whipping in an interview before accompanying several Negro leaders of Atlanta to the FBI office. His face was cut and battered, his eyes almost swollen shut.

Editor C. A. Scott of the Atlanta World, Negro daily newspaper, said federal agents questioned Howard at length.

A. E. Folz, agent in charge of the FBI office, said he had "no comment" on the case.

The grand jury reported at Athens on Dec. 19 that it had not been able to fix the identity of any of the group of armed men who shot to death four Negroes at a lonely highway bridge last Summer. U. S. District Judge T. Hoyt Davis accepted the report but ordered the jury to be held in readiness to consider any possible evidence which may be brought to light.

HOWARD RELATED this story in the interview:

Two men, whom he knew, came to the Monroe ice plant where he works about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday. One asked him what he told the grand jury and when he replied, "I didn't tell 'em nothing because I didn't know nothing," the man cursed, accused him of lying and "started hitting me in the face with his fist."

The News

One of the men drew a pistol and they marched him into a cow stall at the rear of the plant where they "beat me with their fists and over the head with the pistol." There, they asked him if he told the jury "that they came to the ice plant on the day of the lynching and cleaned some guns. I told them I didn't."

The beating lasted "ten or fifteen minutes" and then the men ordered him to go home.

Birmingham, Ala

He said he was treated that night at the Walton County Hospital and came to Atlanta Thursday under auspices of Scott and several others for further medical attention.

Fri

At Monroe, Walton County Deputy Sheriff Louis Howard said he saw the youth at the hospital but that "he said he didn't want to prosecute anybody. I don't know anything else about the case." 1-3-47

Georgian Held Innocent Of Attack On Negro

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

MONROE, Ga., Feb. 25—(AP)—James Verner has been acquitted by a Superior Court jury of charges of assault and battery brought by a witness before the Federal Grand Jury invesaigating the lynching of four Walton County Negroes.

Tues. 2-25-47

The witness, Golden L. Howard, a Negro, said he was beaten by Verner when he refused to reveal the content of his testimony before the Grand Jury.

Verner told the court Howard "tried to run me off the road with his automobile" and he visited the ice plant where Howard worked as a result of the incident.

Dr. Homer Head testified he treated Howard for a slight concussion, lacerations and minor abrasions. Tues. 2-25-47

Verner and his brother, Tom, are under federal indictment on a charge of assaulting a Grand Jury witness. In the state's charges of assault and battery yesterday there was no mention of the lynching investigation.

Two Beat Bedridden Woman

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Fri. 1-3-47

Constitution State News Service.

GRIFFIN, Jan. 2—Seven police officers have been assigned to investigate the brutal blackjacking of a middle-aged invalid woman who was roughly dragged from her sick-bed early Thursday morning, beaten and left lying in a pool of blood.

The woman, Mrs. A. B. Moore of 817 E. Broadway St., is in critical condition at a Griffin hospital

Sol. Gen. F. E. Strickland announced Thursday night police had arrested a man for questioning in the case, but did not divulge his name. No charges have been made.

According to information Mrs. Moore gave police, two masked men entered her home shortly after her husband left for work and demanded money. When she refused their demands, they dragged her from the bed, severely beat her about the head and body with the blackjack, and then left.

Mrs. Moore told police she thought one man was a Negro and the other was white.

The bedridden woman was discovered by her Negro cook, Katie Berry, when she came to work later in the morning. The cook told police her employer was writhing in pain and could scarcely talk.

The Constitution

Sheriff Luther Middlebrooks reported the blackjack and two blood-covered forks were discovered in the house. Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Moore had been bedridden for the past 20 years. Fri. 1-3-47

Released On $10,000 Bonds

World Memphis, Tenn.
Tues. 1-7-47

14a

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Saturday effected the arrest of James and Tom Verner, white Campton, Ga., brothers, in connection with the New Year's Day beating of Lamar Howard, 19-year-old youth, at the Monroe municipal ice plant in a reported attempt to knock out of him what he had testified to the Athens lynch-probing federal grand jury.

Carried before U. S. Commissioner Jake P. Middlebrooks in Athens, the accused duo waived hearing and were released on $10,000 bonds each around 11:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

Arrest of the brothers was made at the direction of U. S. Attorney John P. Cowart, of the Middle Georgia District. Contacted at his office Saturday morning, Mr. Cowart said the brothers were arrested on two charges: "unlawfully injuring Golden Lamar Howard because of his having testified before a federal grand jury" and "conspiring to injure" Howard.

ATLANTA ANNOUNCEMENT

First news of the FBI arrest of the white brothers came from the Atlanta Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Chief Agent Edward J. Foltz made the announcement.

It was the Atlanta FBI office to which Howard first officially made the charge of having been beaten by James and Tom Verner. Quietly moved from the farm house seven miles northeast of Monroe to Atlanta the day following the brutality, Howard presented a horrible sight upon entrance to an Atlanta hospital. His face and head remained swollen Saturday, but hospital attaches felt that recovery was proceeding normally. The patient was being watched carefully, however, because of the apparent severity of blows inflicted.

In Washington, FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover announced that the $10,000 bonds for release of the Verner brothers had been signed by H. L. Peters, white of Walton County. Security of 316 acres of land was given.

Mr. Hoover said further that a .38 caliber revolver and a German Luger were found in James Verner's room. He said Tom Verner, home on leave from military service, is under orders to report back to Fort Bragg Monday.

PROBABLE TURN IN CASE

How soon the federal district grand jury will act on the specific complaints against the Verner brothers and what direct effect the new development will have on the continuing investigation of the Walton county lynchings was not revealed by U. S. Attorney Cowart Saturday. The beating of the witness was seen as a definite development and probably turn in the case however. Tues. 1-7-47

Howard's farmhouse account of the beating received at the Monroe ice plant revealed a continued lynch spirit in that area.

The youth said the white men entered the ice house and after talking briefly with his employer, Will Perry, turned to him and inflicted terrible beating on him when he refused to divulge what had been testified to the Athens federal grand jury probing the Walton county massacre.

DAMAGING TESTIMONY

Howard said fist and gun butt blows were rained upon his face and head when he told the men that he told the grand jury nothing as he knew nothing about the lynching case. The men allegedly insisted and indicated that Howard had given damaging testimony in Athens

At one point during the beating, Howard said the men tried to knock out of him what he told the grand jurors about the cleaning of guns at the ice house and whether or not he had told them it was the same day of the Oconee atrocity.

No 'Leads' Found In Flogging Probe

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

DeKalb County Police Chief Edward L. Foster said Wednesday that an investigation into the reported flogging Tuesday of a Negro couple near Arabia Lake had so far failed to reveal any leads as to the motive or the identity of the floggers. Investigation is continuing, he added. Thurs. 4-3-47

Foster said the Negro woman, who was shot in the foot, had been released from a hospital where she was being treated, but still was unable to give police enough description of the men to work on. 3-4-47

Negro Couple Flogged By Four In Georgia

The News

LITHONIA, Ga., April 1 —(AP)— DeKalb County Police Chief Edward L. Foster said today that a Negro man and his wife were taken from their home by four unmasked white men last night and flogged severely. The woman was shot in the foot. Birmingham, Ala.

The chief said that neither the man, Aggie Herndon, 46, nor his wife, Lottie, 40, could give any reason for the flogging, except that one of the band accused them of stealing. The Negroes live near Lithonia, about 25 miles east of Atlanta. The flogging and shooting occurred in the woods near the Negroes' home. Tues. 4-1-47

Herndon, suffering from a severe gash in his head, told police the following story today:

The four men, dressed in overalls came to the home where he, his wife and six of their seven children live and demanded he open the door.

"This is the law," he quoted one of them as saying.

When Herndon opened the door, "What's the trouble?" he said he asked the white men: "Them things you stole," he quoted one of them as saying.

"If you're the law, search the house," Herndon said he invited them. "I've got receipts for everything here."

Herndon said one of the men then picked up his shotgun and told him and his wife to get into the car.

Then, Herndon said, they drove to a wooded area where the men ordered him and his wife out of the car. His wife was shot and one of the assailants placed his foot on her neck and beat her.

Herndon said he was beaten with a pistol, flashlight and blackjack, but broke away from his captors and fled to a friend's home where he telephoned police. The woman wandered through the woods after the men left her and was found by police this morning at a country store here. Police took her to a hospital in Atlanta. Tues. 4-1-47

Georgia Couple Flogged

D.W.

New York, N.Y.

Authorities at Decatur, Ga., asserted they were up "a blind alley" trying to find the four white men who flogged a Negro couple Monday night, shooting the woman in the legs. Thurs. 4-3-47

DeKalb County Police Chief Edward L. Foster said the trouble was that the couple could not identify their assailants, who were not masked, and could give no reason why they were assaulted.

Aggie Herndon, 46, said he and his wife, Lottie, 44, were at home when the four men, wearing overalls drove up in a car, announced they were "the law," and told the Herndons they were being taken to Decatur police station to be questioned about some "thieving."

They were half way to Decatur, Herndon said, when he jumped out of the car. The men caught him, beat him on the head with a pistol, a flashlight and a blackjack. One of the men fired a shotgun at Mrs. Herndon, he related, then placed his foot on her neck.

Herndon said he fled to a friend's home where he telephoned police. His wife wandered through the woods and was found by the police at a country store. She was taken to a hospital at Atlanta, 25 miles to the west. 4-3-47

Deplore Lawlessness

Constitution

Editor Constitution: As Chairman of the Christian Social Relations Committee of the DeKalb County Council of Church Women I am requesting that you have published in your paper the following resolutions that were passed at a recent meeting of the above mentioned committee:

"Whereas, the members of the DeKalb County Council of Church Women, representing five denominations in DeKalb County, deplore the lawless and cruel assault on two defenseless Negroes early this month in which a man and his wife were flogged and the woman shot; and Fri 4-25-47

"Whereas, we regret that so far no one has been apprehended for the crime; and

"Whereas, failure to arrest and punish the guilty parties is sure to encourage other irresponsible people to flout the law and bring reproach upon our County, most of whose citizens believe in and will fight for justice and fair play for ALL. Atlanta Ga.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved: The Christian Social Relations Committee of the DeKalb County Council of Church Women, urge that the matter not be dropped before full justice is done."

MRS. J. L. FOSSETT,
Chairman Christian Social Relations Committee, DeKalb County Council of Church Women.
Decatur.

Ga. Jury Frees Man Accused Of Beating Witness

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y.

MONROE, Ga., Feb. 26. — James Verner was acquitted yesterday of assault and battery charges growing out of an attack on Golden L. Howard, Monroe Negro who testified in the U. S. grand jury investigation of last summer's Walton County lynchings.

A jury deliberated two hours in Walton Superior Court before returning the not guilty verdict.

Verner was indicted by a federal grand jury at Athens last week for criminal assault in connection with the same incident. His brother, Tom, also was named in the federal indictment. Thurs 2-27-47

Howard testified during the December investigation of the quadruple lynching near Monroe and shortly thereafter was taken from the ice plant where he worked and beaten in a rear yard.

Matron's 'Boast' She Cursed Whites Might Have Caused Flogging

Sat. 5-17-47

Afro-American

Baltimore

ATLANTA—(ANP)—The DeKalb County flogging of Mr. and Mrs. Aggie Herndon near Lithonia last April 1 had not been solved by police last week, but they did come up with the theory of a possible motive.

DeKalb Police Chief Ed L. Foster said he obtained information that Mrs. Herndon had "boasted" of cursing two white women in the Wesley Chapel section prior to the flogging, but could not arrest the chief perpetrators since Mr. Herndon could not positively identify them.

Claim Possible Flogging Motive

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

The DeKalb County flogging of Mr. and Mrs. Aggie Herndon near Lithonia April 1 had not been solved by police Thursday, but the sleuths of the law did come up with what they determined a possible motive for the attack.

DeKalb Police Chief Ed L. Foster said he had obtained information that Mrs. Lottie Herndon had boasted of cursing two white women in the Wesley Chapel section prior to the attack. Although the chief declined to furnish the names of the two alleged victims of the verbal attack, he did say that he could not put his hands on the perpetrator since Mr. Herndon could not positively identify the floggers. Fri. 5-2-47

According to Chief Foster, X-rays of a deep laceration in Mrs. Herndon's leg, thought at first to be a bullet wound, showed up to be only a deep cut. He opined that she injured herself while fleeing through the woods near Arabia Lake where the victims were taken and flogged by three unidentified white men while a fourth waited in a car.

The Herndons have moved from the Wesley Road location to a settlement known as Eskimo Heights about eight and one-half miles from Atlanta on the Stone Mountain Road. Mr. Herndon was reported to be working in an Atlanta plant.

Chief Foster, meanwhile, had assigned Detectives Halley and Jones to work with Attorney Schley Howard, Jr., in an investigation of the case. Fri. 5-2-47

The official was still of the opinion that outsiders had been hired by persons in the community to flog the Herndons, who were at home with their children when the perpetrators entered on the ruse of being law officers in search of stolen goods. When Mr. Herndon asked for a search of the house, if the men were policemen, one of them seized his gun setting in a corner and ordered the couple out of the dwelling and into a waiting automobile.

Following the flogging near Wesley Chapel, Mrs. Herndon was left bleeding on the ground while Mr. Herndon had fled in what he believed was a rain of bullets.

Jury Acquits Tom Verner; 'Locks' in Brother's Trial

Wed. 6-4-47

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

ATHENS, June 3—(UP)—A Federal Court jury Tuesday acquitted one of two brothers charged with beating a Negro witness in the Walton County slaying probe, but could not reach an agreement in the case of the other, and U. S. District Judge Fort Davis called a mistrial.

Tom Verner was freed after four hours and 48 minutes' deliberation, but when the jury went back to consider the case against was possible, and Davis called it a mistrial.

No date was indicated for a new trial for James Vernor, but his case may come up again at the next Court term here. He goes free on bond meanwhile.

James Verner admitted on the stand earlier Tuesday he had "beat the hel out of" Lamar Howard, but denied the Negro's testimony before the U. S. Grand Jury investigating the Walton slayings motivated the beating.

James said he beat Howard "because he tried to run me off the road with his car seevral times." Tom Verner told the jury that he did not lay hands on Howard, but went with his brother to the Monroe ice house, wher the Negro worked, and watched while James beat the Negro.

The brothers' testimony was the high point of the one-day testimony in the trial which was the only prosecution growing out of an exhaustive probe by Federal agents in the slaying of four Negroes near Monroe last Summer.

After questioning a number of witnesses, including Howard, the Federal Grand Jury had adjourned announcing it had found insufficient evidence to indict anyone in the slaying.

James Verner testified that at the time of the beatin gof Howard he did not know the Negro had appeared before the Grand Jury. He also denied that he or Tom had any weapon, or had threatened Howard with a gun during the fight at the ice plant.

Tom Verner denied he and his brother conspired to call at the ice plant for the specific purpose of assaulting Howard. He said they went to inquire if a friend who worked there had returned from vacation. His brother saw Howard, they argued about the highway trouble, and the fight fol-

his brother, James, it found itself hopelessly locked. The foreman told the judge that no agreement lowed, he said. Wed. 6-4-47

Evelyn Patterson, riding with the brothers when they visited the ice plant, testified the Verners were unarmed, and she saw no weapon in the car.

Verner Admits Guilt, Goes Free

Afro American

Baltimore, Md

MONROE, Ga. (ANP) — James Verner, 36-year-old white man, was acquitted last week on charges that he and his brother, Tom, committted assault and battery on Golden ~~Lamar Howard, 19-year-old witness in the Athens~~ Federal district grand jury probe. 3-8-47 Sat

Verner was acquitted although he openly admitted beating Howard until his fists were bloody. His innocence or guilt finally resolved itself into the defense attorney's summary of pitting "this 'n——'s' word against that of these two fine white gentlemen."

Jury Bows to Custom

Sat. 3-8-47

Every witness admitted James Verner had struck and assaulted Howard. But, after almost two hours' deliberation, the 12 white men filed into the jury box to render a verdict of not guilty.

Defendant verner told the jury: "I hit him eight or ten times pretty hard; knocked him down twice."

Tom Verner, the defendant's brother, also charged with assaulting Howard, admitted seeing him beat Howard and that when James joined him later, his knuckles were bloody from the licks he had imposed on the youth.

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hite Man Held For Shooting Woman

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Va.

ATLANTA—(ANP) — A white man who shot a Negro woman during trouble on the River street car line was bound over from city recorder's court to the Fulton grand jury last week on $1,000 bond on a charge of assault with intent to kill.

J. D. Bradfield. 67-year-old white man of Stone Mountain, Ga., was accused of wounding Mrs. Lucy Pyron, of Ashby Terrace, when trouble developed over the request to two white men to move up in the car in order that Negro riders could sit down.

Mrs. Pyron was not involved in the seating request. The white man pulled his pistol and waved it in the direction of all Negroes in the car. When they ran to the rear of the car, Bradfield shot once, the bullet striking Mrs. Pyron in the left side and entering her liver. Sat. 7-26-47

The trolley motorman and other witnesses denied that two Negro men who made the request to move forward assaulted one of the white men involved in the assault.

Sentence Man For Assault, Battery

Daily World

Atlanta Ga.

Clifford Moody, found guilty o an assault and battery charge o a Courtland Street white man las Oct. 15, was returned before Fulton Superior Court Friday and meted a sentence of $50 or 12 months imprisonment.

Originally charged with assault with intent to murder M. H. McLendon of 290 Courtland St., N. E.. the accused was placed on trial which resulted in the assault and battery conviction. Moody testified that he had no intentions of robbing the white man and added that the man appeared to have resented his walking on the same sidewalk with him and his white woman companion. When they met, the white man attempted to force him off the sidewalk and a tussle ensued, he said. Tues

McLendon testified that Moody placed some instrument against his side as if to commit robbery while he was walking with his companion on the night of September 2. 10-28-47

14a 1947 -Illinois

Ministers Sue For Injuries

Daily Worker

14a

Atlanta Ga

CHICAGO— (ANP) —. Rev.. Clarice Moore, and her husband, the Rev. Butler E. Moore, filed suit last week in circuit court asking the City of Chicago for $20,000 for the loss of the right eye of the Rev. Clarice Moore sustained when a mob gathered on Aug. 17, and stoned the automobile in which they were passengers near the scene of the Fernwood housing riots.

The suit, filed by Atty. Ulyses S. Keys who represents the parties, is grounded on the provision of "an act to prevent mob violence" which provides that anyone injured by a riot or members of a mob consisting of more than five persons can ask for damages in a court action up to $10,000.

Mrs. Moore said they were on their way to Harvey, Ill., when the police officers directed them from 102nd and Halsted, where a mob had formed, and told them to go to 107th street and Vincennes avenue.

When they arrived there, they found a mob there which stoned their car.

Fri. 11-14-47

Mrs. Moore was struck in the right eye by a stone, resulting later in the removal of that eye.

Mr. Moore is asking $10,000 for loss of service and the society of his wife, caused by the removal of the eye.

Pastor Fined $100 for Beating Child

Afro-American

BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Md.

Terming the beating of an 8-year-old child with an electric cord a "shame and disgrace," Judge Joseph Sherbow imposed a $100 fine and a suspended jail sentence, Thursday, upon a 72-year old, 200-pound preacher convicted of such an assault. 9-20-47

The man was the Rev. Philip Hiers, pastor of the Apostolic First Born United Glorious Church of Christ which is located on the first floor of his home at 116 S. Bond St. Sat.

Hold Ex-Postal Employee Under Bond For Assault

Defender

Chicago, Ill

Sat. 11-29-47

NEW ORLEANS—An ex-postal worker was ordered held under a $500 bond Friday by United States Commissioner R. H. Carter Jr., after being charged with assaulting an employe of the postoffice on government property.

The man, William Lee Ferguson, 24, 2020 Washington, was fired from his job last Wednesday and the following day returned to the foreign section where, it is charged, he struck Joseph Margarvio, white, whom he considered responsible for his unjust dismissal. Margarvio is an assistant superintendent of mails, and both were employed at the postoffice located in the public cotton warehouse at Napoleon ave. and the river. Sat. 11-29-47

Ferguson escaped at the time of his alleged attack with his fists upon Margarvio, but was captured by police Friday.

Mississippi Mob Castrates Vet

Daily Worker

14a

Tues 3-11-47

CHICAGO, Ill.—The revenge of a white man man who resented a Negro's interest in a Negro girl came to light today when Archie McLaurin came to the Chicago NAACP branch with a letter from his wife in which the miserable incident was related.

Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Vera McLaurin said that W. C. Holloway, a friend of McLaurin's, and Lawrence Calvin Jenkins, an honorably discharged Navy veteran, both of Collins, Miss., accepted a lift from a white man after attending a movie in Collins. They went only a short distance when the driver told Holloway to get out of the car and to get out of town right away. The driver said Jenkins was the one he wanted. Tues 3-11-47

Tied to Tree

The unnamed man took Jenkins to a side road off Highway 49, north of Collins, where a group of white men were waiting. They tied Jenkins to a tree and castrated him with a razor blade. Left untied, he struggled to his home nearby where his mother found him lying on the porch. Jenkins is now in a Jackson, Miss., hospital. Tues 3-11-47

John Sandiford, sheriff of Covington County, said there was nothing he could do about it because Jenkins will not name his attacker, who was said to be interested in the Negro girl and resentful of Jenkins' attentions to her. The sheriff found the rope and razor used in the attack after a brief investigation.

Holloway, who was with Jenkins when he was picked up by his assailant, is in hiding some place in Mississippi. Tues 3-11-47

WHITE MAN COVETED HER:

Afro-American

So Mob Mutilates Friend of Woman

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 3-8-47

CHICAGO—Because a white man coveted a woman with whom he was friendly, Lawrence C. Jenkins, an honorably discharged Navy veteran, was castrated by a group of white men near Collins, Miss., recently.

The vicious story of revenge was revealed in a letter sent by Mrs. Vera McLaurin to her husband, Archie McLaurin of the Chicago NAACP. Sat. 3-8-47

According to Mrs. McLaurin, Jenkins and a friend, W. C. Holloway, had accepted a lift from a white man after attending a movie in Collins.

Companion Not Harmed

After the three had ridden a short distance, the driver told Holloway to get out of the car and out of town right away, adding that Jenkins was the only one that he wanted. Sat. 3-8-47

The unnamed man then took Jenkins to a side road off Highway 49, north of Collins, where the other sadists were waiting. They tied Jenkins to a tree and castrated him with a razor blade.

Left untied, he struggled to his home nearby, where his mother found him lying on the porch. He is now in a Jackson (Miss.) hospital.

Unwilling to Talk

Meanwhile, Sheriff John Sandiford of Covington County has said that there is nothing he can do, inasmuch as Jenkins will not name his attacker, who is known to be interested in the woman and resentful of Jenkins's' attentions to her. Sat. 3-8-47

The rope and razor used in the attack were found by the sheriff after a brief investigation. Holloway. since the incident, has been hiding somewhere in the State.

Mississippian's Extradition Refused By Ill.

14a Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga. Wed 8-23-47

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — (NNP) — Governor Dwight H. Green has refused extradition to the State of Mississippi state penitentiary in 1940 after serving almost ten years of a life setence for murder.

Brooks, whose real name is Nich-

ols, is a 35-year-old laborer who has been living for the last several years at 1226A East Broadway, East St. Louis. When arrested last July 16 on a fugitive warrant, Brooks waived extradition but latesr obtained a writ of habeas corpus and withdrew his waiver.

Governor Green, in his letter to Governor Fielding L. Wright of Mississippi, is said he felt "inclined to gve ths young man a new opportunty in life." He said Brooks was a law-abiding citizen with three children and his own home and had a clean record since his escape.

Order Mistrial Of White Who Forced Youth To Dig Own Grave

14a Defender Chicago Sat. 12-6-47

12-6-47,

PASCAGOULA, Miss.—A hung jury resulted here Friday in the declaration of mistrial of a white man charged with forcing an 18-year-old Negro youth to dig his own grave in the densely wooded area near Van Cleave, Miss., Aug. 2.

The white man, Clinton Lewis, 29, was charged with assault with intent to kill the youth, Hilton Terrell, near the former's home eight miles west of Van Cleave.

Terrell was wounded by the white man in the alleged murder attempt by a load of buckshot fired from a shotgun. Lewis admitted on the stand that he had fired, but said he attempted to shoot over the youth's head. Sat.

The deadlocked jury slept in the Jackson County Court House Thursday night after Presiding Circuit Court Judge L. C. Corban adjourned the court at 7:30 p.m. A mistrial was ordered when the jurors had not agreed on a verdict at the opening of court Friday.

Sheriff D. O. Newman said that Lewis would be required to post a new bond of $800 to the state court in the case. He is also held under $1500 bond to federal court on a charge of making illicit whiskey in his home. Sat. 12-6-47

Terrell will be turned over to the government as a witness against Lewis.

During the circuit court proceedings the jury was shown pictures of the excavation the white man compelled Terrell to dig as his intended grave.

Lewis claimed at the trial that Terrell had made "advances" to his wife prior to the shooting.

14a 1947

Missouri

Suit of Hi-De-Ho King Thrown Out by Mo. Jury

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ANP)—A $200,000 damage suit instituted by Cab Calloway against the Plamor Ballroom and a $100,000 cross bill filed by the swanky white amusement center were thrown out by an all-white jury in Jackson County Circuit Court, last week.

The two suits had their beginning in 1945, during trouble at the ballroom in which, Cab charged, he was beaten by a special policeman on duty at the hall.

Calloway Clubbed, Jailed

According to the orchestra leader, he and a friend, Felix Payne Jr., had sought to enter the ballroom on Dec. 22, 1945, on an invitation from Lionel Hampton who was playing an engagement there.

Sat. 5-31-47

Entrance to the hall was refused by William Todd, white who clubbed Calloway over the head with his service revolver, the suit contends.

The two men were arrested and charged with intoxication and resisting arrest. They were later acquitted of the charges in city court. The damage suits were heard before Judge James Broaddus. For three days, the chief phases of the suits were argumentation and presentation of witnesses.

In a closing statement, the attorney for the ballroom appealed for the upholding of race prejudice and sectionalism. The jury was out two hours and returned with a verdict denying damages to both Calloway and the ballroom.

The suit against the orchestra leader charged him with being responsible for losses sustained when the Hampton band quit after the incident and refused to complete the engagement.

OFFICER GETS CHANGE OF VENUE IN TRIAL ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Fri. 6-27-47

St. Louis, Mo. Argus

A change of venue from Jennings to Berkley was granted Patrolman Charlie Cates of the latter town at a hearing in the county case Wednesday. The patrolman faces a charge of common assault in the arrest of Ray Otis Gregory, of South Kinloch Park.

Fri. 6-27-47

Atty. Mooney, representing Ray Otis Gregory, indicated that he will oppose the trial being held in Berkley and ask that it be transferred to the circuit court in St. Louis. In a statement to an Argus reporter, he said, "We can't heal Gregory's mouth, but we can stop this type of thing from happening".

14a 1947

New Jersey

FORMER ARMY NURSE

Woman Held Prisoner By Cruel Preacher

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 3-29-47

PATERSON, N.J. — Charges of allegedly holding a woman immorally and in virtual slavery resulted in the Rev. William Tuck, 51, of 90 Governor St., being held without bail for grand jury action by Recorder Wendell W. Furrey, here, last Thursday.

The complaining witness, Mrs. Gail Cooper, 24, said to be a discharged Army nurse, with bowed head accused the minister and revealed to the court how she was held captive.

She alleged the minister beat her, forced liquor upon her and made her submit to indignities with several men over a period of time.

Sat. 3-29-47

Robinson Accused

She accused Claude Robinson, 22, of 3 Governor St., also arrested and held with the minister on charges of assault and battery, of holding her captive before she fell into the hands of the Rev. Mr. Tuck.

Robinson also whipped her and forced her to submit to immoral relationships, she said.

The woman appeared in court battered and bruised. She said she could not escape from the men long enough to notify police. The Rev. Mr. Tuck is alleged to have broken jail in Virginia in 1921 after being suspected of bootlegging.

14a 1947

New York

14a

Blame Old Residents For Greenwich Village Trouble

Sat. 9- 19 ~~49~~

NEW YORK — (ANP) —Racial flareups in Greenwich Village, in which Negroes and Jews were victimized, are blamed on old residents of the area. Sat. 9 19- 47

Magistrate Maurice Simmons discussing the situation, advised all minorty groups to organize politically, especially Negroes. Futher, he said "not to appease, not to conciliate, not to take it lying down." The Black Dispatch

It was also pointed out that northern areas have as many if not more racial ghettoes than southern cities. Okla. City

In discussing racial tensions in the Village, the areas adjacent to Sheridan Square, the Avenue of the Amerocas south of 88th street and the south end of Washington Square were termed "unsafe places for minority groups." Okla.

More than 30 racial incidents were blamed on barroom habitues and hoodlums who infest the area.

WHITE VIEWPOINT

Afro American Baltimore, Md.

As I See It

Sat. 8-2-47

By ELIZABETH MEIJER

Since I wrote that the greater freedom in New York makes you at times almost forget that there is a race problem, I have been upset by two attacks in one week.

The victims of one were two young men, who were chased all the way from 14th St. in Manhattan to Brooklyn by some white fellows in a car, with two riding on the running board armed with baseball bats. They were brutally beaten, because of a slight collision.

The second attack was on Mrs. Araminta Work and a companion. They were severely beaten by two men who objected to seeing a white woman walk with a colored man.

Nearly all the papers ignored both these attacks, except PM and the N.Y. Post. Sat. 8-2-47

These two papers carry many stories about colored people, often with pictues, as in the case of Miss Dorothy Carinaldi, beauty contestant, and Judge Jane Bolin.

Arraign 3 in Beating Of Negroes in Village

Daily Worker Tues. 9-16-47

New York, N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

Three men accused of beating two Negro musicians in Greenwich Village Saturday night, were arraigned in Felony Court yesterday charged with felonious assault. They were arrested Sunday, and identified by two women eyewitnesses, friends of the beaten men. One of them, Alexander Keditch, 30, 34 W. 15 St., who has a record of eight previous arrests, was released under $500 bail. The other two, Manny Torrenti, 23, 117 Christopher St., and Francis O'Keefe, 22, 107 Christopher, having no record, were released in their own custody by Judge Ambrose J. Haddock.

The musicians, James W. Barnes, 36, 85 South St., and Walsie Stone, 29, 842 E. 218 St., both veterans, entered the El Romano bar at 150 Greenwich and 11 Streets, with Misses Olive Macomber, 271 W. 11 St., and Elsye Goldstein, 85 Water St., Morristown, N. J. Miss Macomber is white. They were suddenly attacked by a gang of white men.

Barnes' right thumb was broken, and Stone suffered concussion of the brain, and deep head cuts. One of his eyes was swollen. They were treated and released from the St. Vincent Hospital, but Stone was admitted to the Kingsbridge Veterans Hospital Sunday. Stone was a regular Army volunteer three years before the war.

DEFENSE CLAIM

Yesterday attorney Michael P. Direnzo, 225 Lafayette, claimed the alleged attackers were "disabled vets." The court clerk told Judge Haddock, a former cop, the case was an "ordinary bar and grill fight." Haddock set the hearing for Oct. 6 since Stone is hospitalized, as is John Shadwick, 826 Ninth Ave., a white man allegedly cut in the fracas. Tues. 9-16-47

The Daily Worker interviewed Miss Macomber and Barnes yesterday after the hearing. Miss Macomber, pretty blond actress now appearing in "No Exit," said she picked the three men out of a lineup of six men at the Sixth Precinct. "I would have known them anywhere," she said.

Barnes, a medium sized brown-skinned fellow, couldn't remember much of what happened. "We went in. The girls and Walsie sat down. Then I suddenly felt a terrific blow back of my head."

The girls were frightened and left the scene in search of the police but couldn't find any. Finally some arrived. Detective James Grant, the arresting officer was unavailable for comment.

Miss Goldstein, a clerical worker, told this reporter she picked two of the men from the lineup. "I'm sure they were in it," she declared.

In court the three men were accompanied with a dozen or more men who Barnes said yesterday were some of the men he saw in the bar.

Keditch's record shows an arrest on Dec. 6, 1937, and conviction of burglary. He was given an indeterminate sentence. On Nov. 7, 1940, he was found guilty of violation of parole and returned to prison. He has also been arrested for petty larceny, possession of stolen goods and attempted petty larceny. Tues. 9-16-47

Barnes said yesterday he felt the police were trying to accuse either him or Stone of wounding Shadwick. They were both searched Saturday night, but neither had a knife or any other weapon.

Yesterday Clifford Davis, of the New York Civil Rights Congress charged the Mayor's Committee on Unity with "negligence" in dealing with the Village racial attacks. The committee held public hearings in April on the outbreak of Village anti-Negro attacks and last spring promised a report. It has not yet appeared.

New York Hoodlums Beat Race Musicians

Journal & Guide

Norfolk Va.

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Attacks on Negroes by hoodlums in the Greenwich Village section of New York continued this week with the beating of two musicians Saturday night. The musicians, James W. Barnes and Walsie Stone, both veterans, were suddenly attacked by a group of white men while entering the El Romano bar with Miss Olive Macomber, pretty blonde actress now appearing in the Broadway hit, "No Exit," and Elyse Goldstein. Barnes' right thumb was broken and Stone suffered concussion of the brain and deep head cuts. Sat. 9-27-47

Three men, identified as the attackers by Miss Macomber and Miss Goldstein, were arraigned in felony court last Monday, charged with felonious assault. One of them, Alexander Keditch, 30, who has a record of eight previous arrests, was released under $500 bail. The other two, Manny Torrienti, 23 and Francis O'Keefe, 22, were released in their own custody.

DIXIE MOVES NORTH

Defender

14a

Three Face Trial For Kidnapping

Chicago Ill.

Sat. 11-22-47

ELIZABETHTOWN, N. Y. — Three white men accused of abducting a Negro chef, William Grant, and severely injuring him, will be brought to trial Wednesday at County Court. They are each held on $10,000 bail.

Grant is a well known and respected citizen of Port Henry, who was temporarily serving behind the bar of restaurant where he is employed, when one of the whites used abusive language.

Grant retorted, "If you call me that name again, I will have to hit you with the first thing that I find." Grant hit one of the defendants, who left and returned later with two other men who took him out on a road and severely beat him. Since then Grant has been unable to work. One of the white men is of a socially prominent families.

The county is especially alarmed about the case. It was here that John Brown settled in 1849 to help a colony of fugitive slaves. John Brown's body was returned here for burial after his execution.

The defendants are Peter Edward Tolskowski, 31, wealthy and of a politically influential Port Henry family; Pasquale Martin Capuano, 29, bartender, and Carl Henry Labue, 32, a cab driver.

14a 1947

New York

Hoodlums Hurt Five In Greenwich Village

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y. Mon.

Five persons were beaten in a new wave of anti-Negro incidents in Greenwich Village during the weekend. Target of hoodlum assault was Charles White, Negro artist who shares an apartment at 34 Bedford St. with a white couple, Lt. and Mrs. Cteve Carr. 4-14-47

For several successive nights, they had been disturbed by persons pounding on their door and windows, shouting vulgar epithets. Friday night, such an incident brought Lt. Carr to the front door, where he was met by a crowd of ruffiians, dragged into the street and severely beaten. His wife and a friend were also attacked and beaten.

Carr suffered a broken nose, fractured cheekbons and chest injuries. Although the police were called three times, they failed to respond. St. Vincent's Hospital likewise failed to send aid.

The next evening, White and a Negro friend were returning from a Civil Rights Congress meeting, when they were beset by a crowd at a Sixth Avenue coffee shop that has long been a trouble spot. Both White and his friend, Dave MacAdoo, suffered scalp lacerations.

The police did show up this time and dispersed the crowd.

Two members of the group that attacked the Carrs were referred to as "Sam" and "Blackie." The former was arrested later and will be brought to trial at the Felony Court, 100 Center St., Wednesday at 10 a.m., it was reported. 4-14-47

The Civil Rights Congress is sponsoring a mass rally Thursday night to protest police inaction, and to demand full protection under the law for minority groups. The meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 6 Fifth Ave.

The CRC had raised a major fight on this issue about eight months ago when a group of Cafe Society entertainers were beaten up in the same neighborhood. A large community protest increased police patrols around chief trouble spots since then, police efforts have relaxed. 4-14-47

14a N.Y.

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.
Fri. 4-25-47

THIRD STREET AND AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, scene of attacks on Negroes.

Racist Violence in Greenwich Village

Daily Worker

14a N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

There is a definite pattern to Greenwich Village acts of race violence and intimidation. It begins around 1943, when a considerable number of Negroes began establishing residences and businesses there. It is woven of young petty thieves and hoodlums, older gangsters and gamblers, the police and vicious racist attitudes. New York,

Physical attacks were made on:

- Negro residents, business owners, and entertainers; mixed groups or couples, and whites friendly to Negroes. N.Y.

This is bolstered by:

- Intimidation of Jews and Negro business owners, professionals, and residents.
- Destruction of business and residential property. Fri. 4-25-47

The trouble area is divided between the Sixth and Eighth police precincts. It is peopled predominantly by Italians, with good numbers of Irish, Jews, and Negroes. Once America's Bohemian, the Village now includes mostly workers and middle class professionals, though many artists and intellectuals still live there. New York, N.Y.

In the Sixth Precinct, most of the incidents have occurred on Avenue of the Americas between Fourth and Bleecker streets; on Cornelia and Bedford just west of Avenue of the Americas; on Seventh Avenue south, and to the north on Charles Street near Seventh Avenue. In the Eighth Precinct they have happened on Third and McDougal, Sullivan and Third, and Sullivan and Bleecker.

4-YEAR HISTORY Fri. 4-25-47

In August, 1943, just after the Harlem riots, Charles White and his wife Elizabeth, both Negro artists, moved into the little two-story remodeled store at 34 Bedford St. in the Sixth Precinct. White is one of the five people beaten on April 11 and 12. Lt. Steven Karr, his wife Norma, and Patrick Murphy, all white, were attacked in front of White's house. The Karrs occupy the upper floor and are white.

On the day the Whites moved in, a crowd collected and a woman attempted to incite an incident. Mrs. Kay Brown, a white resident of 39 Bedford St., told the Daily Worker she called the police, who dispersed them. The woman who did the inciting has since moved.

Mrs. Brown said she has called the police several times when gangs gathered under her window. Once she saw a youthful gang smash the White's window. The police, she reported, displayed a "very uninterested attitude." The youths have also threatened her.

EIGHTH PRECINCT

In the Eighth Precinct, gangs of corner loiterers are involved. Last June Sammy Benskin, piano player in the Little Casino, was attacked on McDougal and Third Sts. His friend, Miss Sandella Montagu, 201 Sullivan St., was constantly called "n----r lover."

Miss Elsie Marie Miller, proprietor of **Elsie's Personalized Accessories** at 189 Sullivan, has had her business hurt by customers' fear of nearby loafers. Last summer she was constantly called "n----r" and children threw trash into her shop many times.

The youths in this area hang out in the Atomic Bowl Restaurant, 235 Sullivan St.; at Jeff's Bar, 237 Sullivan St., and at the corner of McDougal and Third Sts.

OTHER ATTACKS

Other attacks have occurred in front of George's Place at Seventh Ave. South and Bleecker St. Revels Cayton, executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, was attacked on Charles St.

On April 12, White and another Negro, David McAdoo, were set upon in the Cube Steak House, 321 Avenue of the Americas, also the scene of attacks on several Negro entertainers last spring and summer. Several Negroes were also attacked in the nearby Independent Subway station.

On Cornelia St., the Daily Worker found several clues to the gang's identity. They are perhaps known to the police, but, if not, the clues shouldn't be difficult for the police to find.

Arthur Smith, Negro jeweler, has shop at 37 Cornelia St. He was beaten up last summer. Before he opened there in September, Miss Nicky Peters, a young Jewish woman, ran a music shop there. Both had their windows smashed, goods destroyed, and customers intimidated. When Miss Peters put display pictures of Negro entertainers in her window, the hoodlums shouted "n----r" lover."

A source that cannot be revealed believes the youths hanging out on Cornelia St. are led by a man known as "Benny," who is about 30, tall and thin, has a bald spot and wears thin metal-rimmed glasses.

After Smith's window had been smashed in December he and a Civil Rights Congress delegation went to the police, who promised 24-hour protection. A youth with a theft record was picked up. Police told him to warn his friends that the next time something happened they would be picked up.

RACE HATE

All these incidents shape up to something definite, although no tangible evidence has been produced that organized hate forces are at work. One thing is certain.

There is concentrated race hatred in Greenwich Village.

There are the gangs of unemployed, bitter youths roaming the streets. There is a gangster element. There are the prejudices usually harbored against Negroes and Jews. There is the tendency of the police to condone or ignore the racist violence and intimidation.

Such was the atmosphere of pre-Hitler Germany. The Nazis found it easy to put ideas into the heads of young German toughs.

Hoodlums Beat Up 4 in New Race Violence

PM

By James Parlatore

While millions of Americans quietly celebrated Independence Day week end, hoodlums on New York's lower East Side marked the occasion by pulling two savage anti-Negro attacks on four persons within the space of 27 hours.

Saturday, nearly a week later, there were still no arrests in either case. New York, N.Y.

All four victims were either punched or clubbed, two of them into unconsciousness, because they were Negroes or, in the case of a white woman, because she was walking on the street with a Negro man. Sun. 7-13-47

The first incident occurred at 9 p.m., July 4, at Pike and Monroe Sts. It was here that Mrs. Arminta Work, a white social worker employed in the neighborhood, was beaten up by two men who resented her walking with a Negro.

Beaten After
2½-Mile Chase

In the other assault, two brothers were beaten by white men with baseball bats after a 2½-mile chase starting from 12th St. and Second Ave., across the Williamsburg Bridge and winding up at Broadway and Marcy Ave., in Brooklyn.

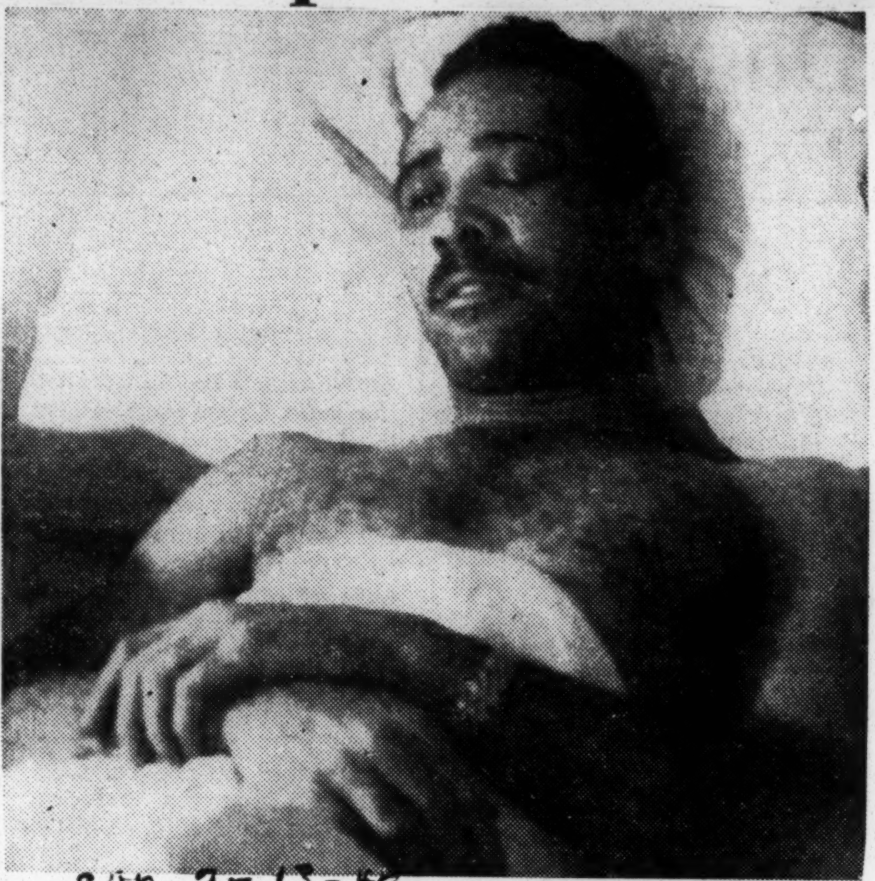
Mrs. Work had gone to visit a friends, Mrs. Lillyanne Browne, a Negro, of 103 Monroe St. When Lawrence Lyons of Jersey City, a friend of Mrs. Browne, offered to buy some Chinese food, Mrs. Work offered to show him where to make the purchase.

Returning from Chinatown, Lyons stopped at Pike and Monroe Sts., half a block away from the Browne house, to buy some beer. Mrs. Work waited outside.

Notices Man
Staring Angrily at Her

Sun. 7-13-47

"One of my nursery school children went by and I talked with him," Mrs. Work said. "As I looked up from him, I noticed a short, middle-aged man staring angrily at me.



Sun. 7-13-47

Lawrence Lyons (▲) and Mrs. Arminta Work (►), who were assaulted by hoodlums in recent outbreak of race violence.

"Then a young man, no more than 24 years old, about 5 feet 6, 175 pounds, swarthy and good-looking, made with the usual pick-up line. I recognized something was wrong immediately. Without getting angry or trying to attract too much attention, I made him understand I wanted to be left alone.

"'Supposin' I don't wanna leave you alone,' he snarled at me. 'Why you walk on the street with a nigger?'

"And before I knew he, he struck me on the left jaw with his fist. As he hit my jaw, my head smashed into a plate glass window. When I came to, I saw this middle-aged man, about 45, 5 feet 3, with a Panama hat, hitting Larry. The beer bottles had fallen to the sidewalk and Larry was about to fall into the broken glass.

Sees 'Black Object'
In Man's Hand

"Then, I think I screamed. But nobody seemed to pay any attention to it. I went for the middle-aged man. I wanted to scratch him so I would leave some identification marks on him. He swung at me, and as he did, I saw a small black object in the palm of his hand. It could have been either a small lead pipe with black tape, or a heavy scout knife. With this he hit me on the left temple and again I passed out." Sun. 7-13-47

Sun. 7-13-47

Mrs. Work called the police from a candy store across the street from the scene of the assault. The detective who came to the scene "treated us as though we were the culprits," Mrs. Work said.

When she asked for an escort home, she said, she was told:

"This is nothing. Just hoodlums. They won't bother you again this evening. Just run along back to your party and have a good time."

Police Deny Statement
Mrs. Work Says They Made

Later, Lt. Ray Martin, in charge of detectives in the Oak St. precinct, told PM he questioned his men, who said they made no such statement to Mrs. Work. He said the detective who responded to her call had tried to reassure Mrs. Work that no further harm would come to her that night.

Lt. Martin said he granted Mrs. Work's request for an escort to and from her job in the Hamilton House, at 72 Market St., near Monroe.

Detectives say they have toured the neighborhood asking questions, but have been unable to find anyone who will talk.

Chased by 6 Men,
2 With Baseball Bats

In the other assault case, Ricci Byrd, 34, a newspaper photographer living at 105 McDonough St., and his stepbrother, Kenneth Cooper, 38, both of Brooklyn, were riding in their car at Second Ave. and 14th St. in Manhattan at midnight July 5, when another car, driven by a white youth, crossed against the traffic light and brushed the fenders of Ricci's car.

"A few minutes later," Byrd said, "we saw this car racing back down Second Ave. There were four white fellows in the car and two others on the running boards with baseball bats in their hands.

Smash at Car
With Bats

Sun. 7-13-47

"They pulled alongside and started smashing in the side of my car with the bats. We stepped on the gas to get away from them. They chased us from 12th St. and Second Ave., across the Williamsburg Bridge into Brooklyn. We must have been going more than 60 miles an hour and they were trying to edge us off the bridge. Finally, they caught up with us at Broadway and Marcy Ave. when a trolley car blocked us.

"There's always a lot of cops around both sides of the bridge and I was praying we'd see one along the way. But we didn't.

"When we had to stop for the trolley, the two men on the running board got off and started for us with their bats. They aimed at my brother, who was sitting behind the wheel and he must have ducked at first, because they smashed the front left window of our car.

'Run That Nigger
——— Down'

"I got out of my side and ran around to help him. But the fellows with the bats yelled to the driver of their car:

"Run that nigger ——— down. Run that nigger ——— over."

"One of those fellows swung at me so hard with his bat across my legs that I went out cold. When I came to, my brother was driving the car along Marcy Ave. He was bleeding. I reported the incident to the 79th precinct where I live and they, in turn, reported it to the 92d, in whose district the beating occurred."

Police Commissioner Wallander has ordered a thorough investigation of this incident. Police have a description of at least one of the hoodlums. Sun. 7-13-47

Love Leads Young Wife To Alleged Murder Try

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

14a

ROWLAND, N. C., May 15.—(AP)—A pretty 24-year-old wife's love for another man led her to hire a young Negro to shoot her husband and only poor aim prevented the husband's death in what might have been a "perfect murder," Robeson County Sheriff Willis Britt said today.

The sheriff said that Mrs. Mary Ellen Currin Miller, in an oral statement to his deputy in the presence of her father, told how she had employed the Negro yard man on their farm near here, Fred Wiggins, 24, to shoot her husband, David Miller, 26, and make it appear a suicide. Britt said Wiggins also made an oral confession.

Baker Hospital attaches in Lumberton, said Miller, who suffered chest wounds was improving and was apparently out of danger. Fri 5-16-47

Sheriff Britt said Mrs. Miller, daughter of a prominent farm family, told this story:

14a

She decided the only solution to her problem was to do away with her husband. She approached Wiggins three weeks ago, told him of her plans and engaged him. The Negro said she told him "he wouldn't ever have to worry about anything anymore" if he killed Miller.

Saturday night she drove the Negro into Rowland to the movies and made final plans. She called him early Sunday morning, gave him a pair of gloves to eliminate fingerprints and handed him her husband's .38 caliber pistol.

14a N.C.

Wiggins told the sheriff that he slipped into Miller's bedroom as he lay sleeping and shot him. The bullet penetrated Miller's lung. Miller arose, chased Wiggins from the room and then collapsed. Britt said today he didn't think Miller recognized the Negro.

Montgomery, Ala.

Both Mrs. Miller, mother of two young children, and the Negro, have been charged with felonious assault with intent to kill. Mrs. Miller was released this afternoon under $15,000 bond but the Negro remained in jail. She has been highly nervous and has been under doctor's care.

Sheriff Britt said Mrs. Miller told him she had been in love with an unmarried man in Robeson County. Fri 5-16-47

Woman Whose Farmhand Shot Hubby Collapses

14a N.C.

Chicago Defender
Sat. 8-23-47
Chicago, Ill.

LUMBERTON, N. C.—The trial of a young white woman who hired a Negro farmhand to kill her husband to permit her unrestrained freedom in a love affair with another white man, was postponed here Wednesday when she collapsed just before entering the courthouse for the proceedings.

The court's action was decided upon after two doctors who attended the woman, Mrs. Mary Ellen Cullin Miller, 24, after she fainted said she was suffering from "an extreme nervous condition—almost hysteria" and was unaware of her surroundings.

The comely Mrs. Miller, whose husband survived the gun attack she planned and later forgave her, had her case continued until September.

Goes Into Coma

She arrived with her husband, David Miller, 26-year-old store-farm operator, for the trial but was unable to get out of the car. Judge Chester Morris first ordered her to a hospital and recessed court until afternoon. But when physicians later reported she had gone into a coma, the judge deferred the trial until the first week in September. Sat. 8-23-47

She is confined to a Lumberton hospital. Sat. 8-23-47

Mrs. Miller was granted a previous postponement soon after her husband was shot after midnight May 11 as he slept.

Fred Wiggins, 24-year-old Negro farmhand who fired two shots at the sleeping man at the white woman's command, pleaded guilty to felonious assault in the shooting, but his sentencing was delayed until the trial of Mrs. Miller.

Wiggins has remained in jail since his arrest on May 12 in default of $15,000 bond.

Try 2 White Cops For Assault In North Carolina

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

14a

SMITHFIELD, N. C.—(ANP)—Trial of two white policemen, W. T. Eatman and T. H. Parrish for assaulting George Washington Dodd, Jr., of Greytown, with a blackjack about a month ago, opened in recorder's court here last Wednesday. Sat. 9-13-47

At the same time, the victim of the attack faced trial for resisting arrest, speeding and failure to heed a siren signal to stop.

According to Dodd, the officers had pursued him without cause as he drove out of town and that after he had stopped, they announced he was under arrest. In addition to refusing to tell him what offense he had committed, Dodd claimed the two policemen struck him several times with a blackjack and that one of the blows cut a gash over his right eye, causing profuse bleeding and requiring three stitches to close.

Chief of Police J. V. Peterson declared that investigation showed the two policemen had been threatened with attacks by Dodd and resorted to the use of the blackjack to keep him under control.

Brought to jail, the victim was released in custody of his employer, Charlie Beasley, for medical treatment. Originally, his case was to be heard in mayor's court. It was removed to recorder's court but not filed there until Aug. 12. When he learned of the transfer of his case, Dodd had a warrant issued against the policemen.

14a

Attacked Man

3 N. C. Whites Get Sentenced

Pittsburgh Courier
P.A.
Pittsburgh Courier
P.A.

GREENVILLE, N. C.—(ANP)—Declaring that "this has a lot to do with stirring up racial strife," Judge Henry A. Grade meted out sentences to three white men convicting of assaulting elderly Will Buck with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The deadly weapon was a beer bottle. 9-13-47

The defendants were Henry Floyd Jr., Guy Kite and David Wiggins. According to the testimony given, the three men stopped their car, called to Buck, and as he approached, struck and beat him with a beer bottle. When they had finished, Buck crawled seventy-five yards to a house to get transportation to a hospital.

GIVEN YEAR ON ROAD

Sat. 9-13-47

The court gave Floyd a year on the roads for drunken driving and continued judgment on the deadly weapon charge. The other defendants were given a continued-for-five-years judgment on the deadly weapon charge.

Character witnesses for the defendants were brought before the judge, but he declined to hear their testimony. "My mind's made up," he said, "and I want to say that this sort of riding the roads at night looking for trouble has a lot to do with stirring up racial strife." Sat. 9-13-47

In Pretty Good Shape

14a N.C. Nashville, Tenn. Globe

We can't recall ever hearing about a colored man who was in better shape for a gruelling session at the court house after having tried to murder a white man than Fred Wiggins, down in Lumberton, North Carolina. He was hired by a white lady to bump off her husband so as "to permit her unrestrained freedom in a love affair" with another white gentleman. The colored farm hand proved to be a bad shot. The husband survived the attempt on his life, has since made up with his wife and all is forgiven. But soon as she overcomes her nervousness at the thought of having to have her day in court, she must stand trial. They are not going to sentence Mr. Wiggins, the bad shot, until after they have figured out what to do with the white lady. Wiggins is in jail, unwilling to make bond in the sum of $15,000. Fri. 8-29-47

If Wiggins should make bond and get out of jail, it is probable he would be visited by a mob which would "destroy the evidence." That would make everything simple. The lady could then say she never had hired the colored man to bump off her dear husband. Wiggins, we figure, is fixing to get off with not more than 99 years at hard labor. Had he rendered the same kind of service for a colored lady, under the Southern version of equal justice, the most he would have collected would have been 11.29. Fri. 8-29-47

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3 Sentenced For Contributing To Racial Strife

14a

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

GREENVILLE, N. C. — (ANP)—Declaring that "this has a lot to do with stirring up racial strife," Judge Henry A. Grade meted out sentence to three white men, convicted of assaulting elderly Will Buck with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The deadly weapon was a beer bottle. 9-20-47

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The court gave Floyd a year on the roads for drunken driving and continued judgment on the deadly weapon charge. The other defendants were given a continued-for-five years judgment on the weapon charge. 9-20-47

Character witnesses for the defendants were brought before the judge, but he declined to hear their testimony. "My mind's made up," he said, "and I want to say that this sort of riding the roads at night looking for trouble has a lot to do with stirring up racial strife."

Defender-Chicago Illinois
Sat-8-2-47

14a

NOBODY BELIEVES IT for It's One For the Books, but the innocent-looking white woman above is Mrs. David Miller of Lumberton, N. C., who hired Fred Wiggins (below) to kill her husband (top left) aided him in a midnight attack upon the sleeping victim, and then when Wiggins' two shots failed to kill, made up with David and went on a second honeymoon. Wiggins is in jail, convicted of secret assault with intent to murder, but the sentence was deferred until Mrs. Miller gets home from her honeymoon. The "other man," motive for the attempted murder in the true love triangle, is presumably also somewhere around. Mrs. Miller is out on $15,000 bond charged with felonious assault, but it is rumored charges might be dropped in view of her husband's "forgive and forget" attitude. No such luck for Wiggins!

Find Farm Hand Guilty In 'Murder For Hire'

Chicago, Ill. Chicago

By JOHN LeFLORE

LUMBERTON, N.C.--Fred Wiggins, 24-year-old farm hand, was found "guilty as charged" in the Robeson County Superior Court here Monday following the return of indictments charging him with a secret assault with intent to murder David Miller, 27-year-old white farmer, at the urging of Miller's 24-year-old wife, Mary Currin Miller. Judge Walter J. Bone deferred sentence on the would-be slayer pending the trial of the wife who is also under indictment.

Testifying before the grand jury Wiggins stated that Mrs. Miller came to him with an offer of a large sum of money if he would shoot her husband as he slept, and "make it look like a suicide."

Husband Recovering

The hearing revealed that Mrs. Miller had been carrying on a clandestine love affair with Garland Cottrel, 23-year-old white Navy veteran, and wanted her husband killed so that she could marry him. Past midnight on May 11, she admitted Wiggins to the home and took him to her bedrom, where Wiggins fired twice at the sleeping husband, wounding him in the chest. Miller leaped from his bed and gave chase, sounding the alarm with his automobile horn. He was taken to the hospital by his father-in-law and is reported as recovering.

Sat-7-12-47

Mrs. Miller is in custody at an Asheville sanatorium, allegedly suffering from a mental breakdown. It is reported that her defense will be temporary insanity. The husband has demanded that his wife's paramour also be questioned concerning his share in the planned murder.

14a 1947 Pennsylvania

Draws Term for Beating Matron

Afro-American

Victim Tells Court She Can't Remember

Baltimore, Md.

ADMITS ROMANCE

Scantily-Clad Pairs Found After Raid

Sat. 6-28-47 PHILADELPHIA

Lloyd Ford, 39, principal in an interracial romance which culminated in the beating of a white Navy officer's wife, last week was sentenced to 60 days in the county prison on assault charges.

Ford, convicted for allegedly beating Mrs. Mabel Thompson, 32, of the 2400 block N. Broad St., despite contentions by the victim that she did not know what happened to her, was sentenced by Judge Gerald F. Elood.

Refused to Testify

Detectives charged that Ford beat the woman after they had a quarrel, but Mrs. Thompson refused to testify against him.

Mrs. Thompson, who admitted carrying on a clandestine affair with Ford, was confined to Womens' Homeopathic Hospital several weeks after the beating allegedly took place in April at 2108 N. Camac St. Sat. 6-28-47

Found Unconscious

She was found unconscious and insisted at the magistrate's hearing that she did not remember what happened to her. She admitted, according to police, that she met Ford at the Camac St. address on occasions.

Ford, who lived at 5434 Market St., was found guilty after testimony by Mrs. Mabel Kennedy of 1016 Cumberland St., that she heard Ford and Mrs. Thompson arguing, but did not remember what happened after that.

At the outset of the case, John Brice, 34, patrolman of 2411 N. 19th St., was involved. He reportedly visited the house and found Mrs. Thompson lying unconscious. He was later freed.

Police raided the Camac St. address, which they described as a tan-white rendezvous, after Mrs. Thompson had been taken to the hospital.

White Pair Admit They Lied In Providence Attack Incident

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 7-26-47
14a R.I.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A "quaint" Dixie custom emerged in Providence last Wednesday when Joseph T. Lopez, 27-year-old Portuguese, and Mrs. Margaret Ryder, 33-year-old white woman, admitted to police officers that their story of being assaulted by six colored youths was a lie.

The two had called police early Tuesday morning and charged that they had been attacked and robbed on a Providence Street. Police rounded up eight suspects from different parts of the city who protested their innocence in vain.

Sat. 7-26-47

Protests from colored persons here and the failure of the couple to identify any of the youths apprehended as their assailants caused officers of the law to probe the matter. Lt. John D. Fox of Precinct 5 then uncovered the fact that neither Lopez nor his companion had been molested.

14a 1947

South Carolina

Mob Forces Man To Crawl On Hands And Knees After Delivering Mean Beating

Daily World - Atlanta, Ga.

14a

Fri 8-8-47

JEFFERSON, S. C.—Details of how a menacing mob of white men, their identities known, brutally beat two Negroes, forcing one to crawl on hand and knees 200 yards to the town limits, were told a reporter by Negroes in and near here this week.

CONVICTED WITHOUT COUNSEI

The beating occurred the afternoon of June 7 (Saturday) when one man, accompanied by his brother, came to the town jail to learn charges made against his son, beaten and jailed earlier in the afternoon. The father was beset by the mob, held a gun point and savagely beaten. Satisfied with the punishment, the group in mirth, held guns on him, ordering and following him as he crawled on hands and knees, blood dripping from several wounds, 200 yards to the town's limit. The group returned and seized his brother, whom it also beat and ordered out of town.

Names of two, the son and another young man, all beaten in the course of the afternoon, were requested withheld, several white citizens here, incensed but helpless over the incident, agreed that were the names generally known, more abuses would be heaped on colored citizens. Fri 8-8-47

The son was accosted and assaulted on Jefferson streets that afternoon with a tire tool by a white man allegedly employed by a local magistrate. After being attacked, the young man procured a rock, struck his assailant, and then fled. He was arrested later, jailed here, removed to Pageland and thence to the county jail at Chesterfield, allegedly being hustled about ahead of a pursuing group.

Monday morning, without counsel and but thirty-odd hours after his arrest, he was tried in county court, convicted and given eighteen months on the chaingang, where he is now doing the time.

ACCUSE MAGISTRATE

The father of the imprisoned youth claimed that the magistrate came to his home following the street melee between his son and the former's employee, brandishing a shotgun and cursing him. Later, the son of another man was met on the Pageland highway by the magistrate, the citizens report, and was beaten by the jurist, "for no obvious reason."

NEGROES FRIGHTENED

Fri-8-8-47

None of the victims, nor other Negroes, reportedly to have been ordered out of town during the afternoon, had been disorderly or committed any type of offense. This is the view of several white residents. as well as of the Negroes.

Four Men Beaten by S.C. Mob

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

14a

JEFFERSON, S. C. (ANP) — Four persons were brutally beaten here recently by a white mob, three of the men "for no obvious reason." Names of all are being withheld to avoid further reprisals by members of the mob.

The trouble started with the attacking of one of the four by a white man allegedly employed by a local magistrate. The attacker used a tire tool in his assault on the young man who picked up a stone and struck his assailant in his defense. Sat. 8-23-47

The youn man fled, but was arrested later.

The boys father and uncle went to the town jail to learn the charges against the youth. The father was beset by the mob, and beaten. The mob returned and seized his brother and beat him.

Beaten on Highway

Later, the son of another man was met on the Pageland highway by the magistrate, according to reports, and was beaten. The father of the imprisoned youth said that the magistrate came to his home following the street melee brandishing a gun and cursing him. Sat. 8-23-47

Several persons admited seeing the Chesterfield county sheriff and the acting chief of police near the scene of the beatings but the two made no effort to interfere. Both white and colored citizens have denounced the affair, but none would consent for their names to be made public.

Dixie Racists Saved By Negro

Chicago Defender, Ill.

14a

10-4-47

CHARLESTON, S. C.—The plea of a Negro Boy Scout leader before Judge G. D. Bellinger won probationary sentences for three white youths facing 3-year sentences for shooting three Negro Scouts July 13 in Camp Pickney near this city. Sat.

The incident occurred without provocation at 1:30 in the morning. The offenders said they fired bird shot to frighten the campers. They were indicted on a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill, and pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated assault and battery.

Judge Bellinger sentenced the youths to three years each, but on a plea from Robert Miller, head of the Negro Boy Scout Council, suspended the sentence and put the boys on probation for five years.

. Miller asked that probationary sentences be given because the youths had been in jail for two months and the victims had not been seriously injured.

In granting the probation, Judge Bellinger described the shooting as "unwarranted and outrageous," but commended the Negro Scout leaders for their attitude in the case.

Suspect Flees Into Swamp As Officers Press Man Hunt

14a

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga

HOLLY HILL, S. C.— An intense man-hunt, staged by county and local officers Sunday after police Chief W. O. Workman was beaten in the town's jail became enlivened here late Monday when officers reported they had spotted their quarry as he disappeared in dense. snake-infested Four Hole Swamp.

David Washington, 28-year-old suspect who had been held in jail in connection with a car theft charge, was accused of attacking Chief Workman Sunday afternoon as the latter sought to transfer him to another cell in the small jail . Washington is said to have taken the gun of the 61 old officer and beat him over the head, then escaped in the direction of Eutaw ville. Thur. 11-13-47

The suspect, officers said, lost his shoes as he headed in to the swamp Bloodhounds which had lost the trail earlier, were recalled from Columbia late Monday to continue the search.

14a 1947

Texas

White Man Kicks, Chokes Negro Maid

Informer
Houston, Texas,
Sat. 11-29-47

HOUSTON — A white man, 27 years old, apparently ran amok, last Friday in a downtown hotel and struck, kicked and choked a Negro maid and choked an elevator operator.

14a. Texas

The man was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and was held for examination by Dr. C. A. Dwyer, county psychiatrist.

Mrs. Rosalie Simmons, 42 of 1214 Buckner, a maid at the hotel, told officers that she was in a room at the hotel when the man came in and began choking, kicking and striking her. She wsa admitted to Jefferson Davis hospital suffering pain in the left side where she said the man kicked her, bruises on her neck and loose upper front teeth.

Sat. 11-29-47

The elevator operator, Miss Patricia Morrison, 19 of 310 Delmar, told officers a man got in the elevator and asked to be taken to the eleventh floor but changed his mind and asked to be let out on the seventh. When the elevator reached the seventh floor the man grabbed her and choked her and left her lying on the elevator floor. When she came to, the man was gone, she said.

The man was arrested by Patrolman E. R. Goodnight. The man's father told Lieut. W. P. Brown that his son is subject to occasional fits.

Howard Student Mauled By Mob In Newport News

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

14a Va.

Staff Correspondence

NEWPORT NEWS — An incensed group of white citizens of Marshall Courts housing project accosted and inflicted severe injuries upon a popular Howard University student of this city Friday night before police took the young man into custody and placed him under arrest. Sat. 6-28-47

The student, John H. Crutchfield, 20, of 2202 Marshall avenue, was accused of trespassing and of being a Peeping Tom. He was granted a continuance until July 8 when he made an appearance in police court the following day.

Reports on the incident differ. It is said that a woman resident of the courts saw a man outside a window of her apartment and raised an alarm.

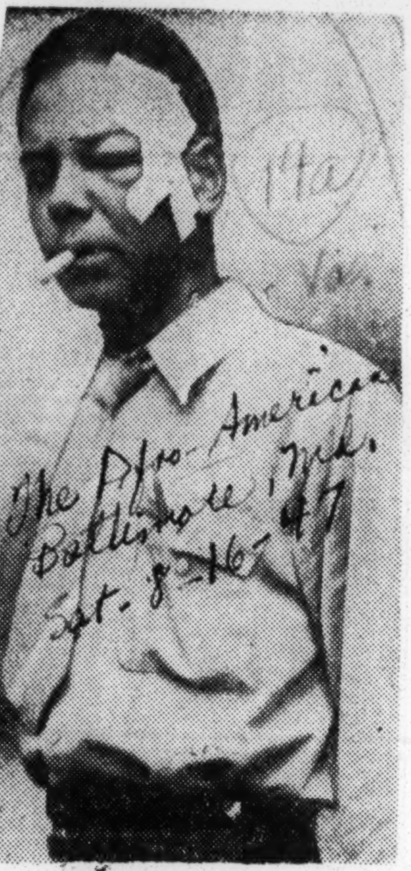
Several men ran from their residences and one caught sight of the fleeing youth and fired a blast from his shotgun. The shot attracted the attention of other residents of the housing project who joined the chase, captured the young man and proceeded to beat him unmercifully.

Police intervened and arrested the man after he had been "beaten up pretty badly," took him to headquarters, and booked him on Peeping Tom and trespassing charges. It was stated that young Crutchfield was returning from Newsome Park and was attempting to make a short cut through Marshall Courts. Sat. 6-28-47

He became lost, according to this version, and was looking for someone to give him directions. Suddenly, two men grabbed him from behind and began manhandling and cursing him, it is said.

When the young man broke away and began to run a shot was fired at him. In his flight he ran into a mob of 40 or 50 persons who tied his feet and began to beat and kick him.

A squad car pulled up and police made the arrest, but did not carry any of the attackers to police headquarters.



14a
Va.

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 8-16-47

ALL PATCHED UP — Osborne Payne, 23, a student at Virginia Union University in Richmond, was allegedly beaten by a scion of a wealthy family at the Country Club of Virginia when Payne refused to serve his party after lawful hours.

14b 1947

Judge Refutes Governor, Bars Dixie Extradition

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

A Chicago Judge had a difference of opinion with Illinois' Gov. Dwight H. Green here last week on whether an escaped chaingang prisoner should be returned to Georgia. The judge won.

Chief Justice Cornelius Harrington of Criminal Court overruled the governor's decision to extradite Aurelius Bibbins, 40, who had escaped from a chain gang near Macon, Ga. Last Aug. 16, Governor Green had honored a requisition for Bibbin's return.

According to Bibbins, he was sentenced to serve four years in prison when he "took the rap" for a younger brother who had stolen 10 pounds of cheese from a railroad car in Macon. He admitted eating part of the cheese. He told Judge Harrington that he was sent to a chaingang working on roads near Macon. He was shackled with iron cuffs around his ankle, to which a chain, leading to another cuff around his neck, was attached. Sat. 9-27-47

After serving two years on the gang, he was paroled to work on a farm owned by one of his guards. He escaped and came to Chicago in 1944. An ex-serviceman, he now works in a movie theater and at Riverview Park. He is also leader of a church choir.

High Court Colier's One Hope Now

P.M.

Friday

The 15-man New Jersey Court of Errors and Appeals voted yesterday to send 27-year-old John Colier back to South Carolina and to what Colier feels will be certain death on the chain gang. 9-6-47

Colier's only hope now, if he isn't railroaded south immediately, lies in an application to the court for a stay pending an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. N.Y. N.Y.

The Newark Baptist Ministers' Conference, which alone has financed the fight for Colier, will meet Monday night to decide whether it can dig up the money to finance the appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Court of Errors and Appeals verdict merely sustained the opinion of Vice Chancellor Alfred A. Stein, who held that New Jersey could not pass on the fairness of trials in another state and had no choice but to extradite Colier.

Had the case been tried in New York, Colier could not have been extradited because, as South Carolina admitted, Colier was not provided with a lawyer at his 1937 trial for a $6.50 burglary. New Jersey law contains no such protection.

The Rev. William P. Hayes, pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church of 119 W. Market St., Newark, and a leading light in the ministers' conference, said after yesterday's ruling: N.Y.

"The court did not answer the 60-page brief of Colier's attorney, Abram Golden. This was merely bypassing the issues raised in this case."

Alabama Fugitive Fights Removal From Boston Jail

Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 10-4-47

BOSTON, Mass. — James Hines, who escaped from an Alabama prison 14 months ago after he had been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for a $5 robbery which he claims he did not commit, was arraigned as a fugitive from justice before Judge Joseph T. Zottoli in Municipal Court.

Following his arrest after a dispute at a parking lot where he was employed, the Governor of Alabama asked for his extradition. His defense counsel, Attorney Irwin T. Dorch, told the court his client intended to fight extradition and asked for a continuance until Oct. 29 in order to contact Governor Robert Bradford, who has ordered the Attorney General to investiigate the case.

Bail was fixed at $10,000 and the case was set down for a hearing on Oct.29. 10-4-47

Hines' wife and three children were in thiis city when he escaped from the Alabama prison and joined them here. He was arrested in August, 1942 in Mobile when he was seized as he was leaving his home at midnight to go to his place of employment. He was suspected of taking $5 from a small boy. No positive identification was made by the boy. 10-4-47

Fourteen months ago, Hines made a successful break, came here, joined his family and secured a job as a parking attendant. In backing a car out of the lot he collided with another car and police were called to settle the dispute which followed. He was fingerprinted and his identity as a fugitive became known.

The State of Alabama started extradition action on September 6 Attorney Dorch is being assisted by Attorney Antonio Cardozo, who helped Dorch in defending James Cunningham in a similar case 10 years ago.

He Doesn't Want to Go Back

Afro-American
9-25-47 Sat.
Baltimore, Md.

Johnnie Coliers, who has been fighting extradition to South Carolina since early spring, is shown as he was brought out of Essex County Court House, Monday, after being arraigned before Common Pleas Judge Joseph Conlon, Newark. He is accompanied by Donavan Lally, court officer. The defendant, who was convicted for the alleged theft of a few packs of cigarettes and some chewing tobacco, says he escaped after he saw a friend beaten to death on the chain gang.

Extradition of "kid" gunman sought from San Quentin

Tribune

SAN FRANCISCO — The Essex county, New Jersey, prosecutor's office is seeking the extradition of a 20-year-old fugitive who was sentenced recently to San Quentin for an indeterminate term after pleading guilty to three charges of armed robbery.

The gunman, Clarence Wright, is wanted in New Jersey on 25 indictments. Wanted for a series of holdups, shootings and vicious beatings in Newark, he was the object of a countywide "shoot to kill" search last Fall and Winter. New Jersey police said his criminal career began when he was 11 years old. They said he worked alone or with gangs and at one time was the leader of a gang whose members included three men who were sent to the electric chair for the murder of a Newark druggist. Los Angeles, Cal.

Wright, who was captured in a holdup in San Francisco Aug. 19, has refused to waive extradition, preferring to take punishment for his California crimes than face the bill New Jersey authorities have against him. His sentence will be determined when he comes before the San Quentin prison board in December.

However, according to Detective Captain Cocozza, of Newark, who is here seeking Wright's extradition, it is possible for California authorities to turn him over to New Jersey now with the agreement that he be returned to California to finish his term after serving sentence in New Jersey.

Extradition Papers For Escaped Convict Ready For Governor

Ala.

9-22-47 Mon.

Extradition papers seeking the return to Alabama of a Negro who escaped from a convict road gang more than a decade ago were ready tonight for Gov. James E. Folsom to sign. Advertiser

State Prison Director Frank Boswell said the proceedings had been started against Ernest Robinson, now living in Port Huron, Mich., under the name of Leon T. Thornton. They cannot be completed, however, Boswell said, until Folsom returns from a vacation and signs the papers.

The 33-year-old Negro, who said he went to Michigan "because I heard that people (there) give my race an even break," was arrested Aug. 4 on a non-support complaint filed by his wife. A routine fingerprint check with the FBI identified him as an escaped Alabama convict.

Robinson said he was sentenced to prison for a crime he did not commit and that he escaped in 1929 when he was 14 years old.

Prison Director Boswell said, however, his records showed the

Negro was 20 years of age when he was sentenced and that he fled from the road gang on May 31, 1934 after serving only three months of a four to four and a half-year sentence for burglary and grand larceny. 8-22-47 Fri.

Commenting on Robinson's statement that he would rather serve 10 years in Michigan than return to Alabama, Boswell asserted: Montgomery, Ala.

"I know good and well he'll get good treatment down here. I'll see to that to the best of my ability."

Alabama Abandons Effort To Return Escaped Prisoner

[illegible]
~~Alabama Advertiser~~
Montgomery, Ala.

State Prison Director Frank Boswell said yesterday he had no plans of asking for the rearrest of Bennie Mack Hines, 39, Negro fugitive who was released earlier this week by Massachusetts authorities. Thu. 11-13-47

"They had all the data before them in our extradition request," Boswell said. "If they did not see fit to honor our requistion, then I don't see any good reason for pressing the case." Advertiser

The Negro had been convicted of robbing a small boy in Mobile in 1942 of about $5. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and had served three years when he escaped in May of last year.

At Boston Assistant Attorney General Michael A. Fredo said Hines was released because Alabama officials "apparently no longer had any interest in him."

He said the release was ordered when no representative of this state appeared for a hearing in his case. Thu. 11-13-47

The Alabama prison director said today he had been notified of the hearing but did not choose to send a representative because he did not consider it necessary.

"They had all the facts before them," he said. "They could either grant or deny the extradition. It would have been a useless expense to send a man up there under the circumstances."

Boswell said it is too costly for the state to send representatives to every hearing held in extradition cases.

Ga. Justice Has Champion ... In Georgia

PM New York N.Y.
Fri. 12-19-47

By United Press

ATLANTA

Georgia prison officials said the State of Pennsylvania deserved its fate in freeing and keeping James Head, also known as Jacob Moreland, 26-year-old Negro who claimed he would face death if returned to this State to complete a prison sentence. (*See Hat's Off to Judge Samuel Weiss of Pittsburgh, Page* 21.) PM. Fri. 12-19-4

Butts County authorities said Head was "the damndest, sorriest Negro we ever had and a one-man crime wave."

Director Charles A. Williams of the Georgia Penal Dept. said he did not care to "dignify" the attack of Judge Weiss on this State's prison system.

Judge Refuses to Return Negro to Georgia Term

Courier
Journal Louisville Ky.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 18 (UP) — Judge Samuel Weiss today refused to extradite a Negro fugitive to face "Georgia justice" because to do so, he said, would be signing the fugitive's "death warrant." Fri. 12-19-47

Judge Weiss, of Allegheny County Common Pleas Court, freed James Moreland, alias Jacob Head, 26, Butts County, Georgia, who fled a prison hospital after serving three years of a 12-year term for a $20 burglary.

Butts County authorities retorted that Pennsylvania could keep Moreland because he was "the damnedest, sorriest Negro we ever had, and a one-man crime wave." 12-19-47

Opinion Fills 51 Pages.

Judge Weiss, a former congressman and long-time referee in the National Professional Football League, issued a fiery 51-page opinion, which said, in part:

"Until the time comes . . . when all men are considered equal . . . regardless of race, color, or creed, this court cannot come to any other conclusion but that James Moreland will suffer death by torture, lynching, or murder upon his return to Georgia."

Judge Weiss said "Enlightened public opinion must condemn as cruel and unusual punishment the action of Georgia authorities in chaining prisoners . . . in compelling them to work at hard and painful labor from sunrise to sunset . . . in beating and shooting them . . . in placing them in unlighted holes in the ground . . , and on occasion murdering them in cold blood."

Georgian Spurns to Reply.

At Atlanta, Director Charles A. Williams of the Georgia Penal Department said he did not care to "dignify" the attack by a reply. He said the laws of Georgia themselves refute Judge Weiss and pointed to the F.B.I. record which shows that Moreland was convicted of five burglaries in Butts County, four of them after he was paroled for the original $20 burglary.

He said that former Governor Ellis Arnall had put across a reform program outlawing shackles, stripes, and any form of corporal punishment.

Hats Off!

PM
New York N.Y.

. . . to Judge Samuel Weiss of Pittsburgh, who loosed a 51-page blast at Georgia justice and refused to extradite a 26-year-old escaped Negro convict on the grounds that it would "be signing his death warrant." The case involved James Moreland, who escaped from the penitentiary hospital at Cairo, Ga., last year and was arrested as a fugitive in June. He had served three years of a 12-year term for a $20 burglary. Weiss acted after Moreland, unchallenged by Georgia authorities, had testified he was "framed" by a sheriff he had accused of possessing illegal whisky. Weiss said: "We cannot with a clear conscious blindly ignore the overwhelming weight of national public opinion against Georgia justice—or should I say injustice?—so evident in this case."

Fri. 12-19-47
12-19-47

FUGITIVE OF GEORGIA FREED IN PITTSBURGH

Times New York N.Y.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 18 (AP)—James Moreland, 26 years old, a Negro fugitive from a public works camp in Grady County, Georgia, was freed today by County Judge Samuel A. Weiss, who reversed an extradition order of Gov. James H. Duff.

Moreland, who predicted that he "would not come out alive" if returned to the Georgia institution, testified that road gang prisoners were chained to each other during his labor camp term. He said that he saw two convicts killed by guards and others beaten.

The defendant asserted that escaped prisoners, when captured, were thrown into an unlighted hole and sometimes never seen again. Once, he added he saw guards pour gasoline on escaped prisoners and set them afire. Fri. 12-19-47

Judge Weiss, who recalled that Georgia offered no rebuttal testimony, said: Times N.Y. N.Y.

"This court will not permit the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the State of Georgia in the further perpetration of injustice against a helpless Negro."

Moreland, Alias Jacob Head, testified that he was "framed" on a burglary charge because he worked for a eGorgia sheriff in the operation of a whisky still. He had served three years of a twelve-year sentence when he escaped. Arriving in Pittsburgh in May, the defendant obtained a job and was arrested in June. The case came to court on his appeal from the extradition order.

14b 1947

full

New Appeal Filed for Chain Gang Fugitive

PM New York, N.Y.

Sun. 4-20-47

The 11-month effort of John Colier, fugitive from a South Carolina chain gang, to win his freedom from a New Jersey jail has gone before the State's highest court, the Court of Errors and Appeals.

Colier spent 13 months in Carolina chains before fleeing from servitude for a crime which he insists he never committed. Between the Carolina chain gang and the Jersey jail he has been held prisoner for two years—five months more than the whole sentence imposed for his alleged theft of $5, ten packs of cigarets and four packages of chewing gum from a Greenwood, S. C., service station.

The new effort to free Colier is based on an appeal from the New Jersey Court of Chancery for a writ of habeas corpus.

The appeal was filed by Colier's attorney, Abram A. Golden of Newark. It is to be heard during the May term of the Court of Errors and Appeals.

This time, Colier will have the backing both of the United Nations Charter and a group of New Jersey ministers who have become interested in the plight of the 27-year-old, whip-scarred prisoner.

The UN Charter is cited by Golden to support his contention that Colier should be freed because of irregularities in his Carolina trial which denied him a fair hearing. The UN Charter, Golden points out, has become an "integral part of the law of the land." Among its provisions, he notes, is that UN shall promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race . . ."

The petition reviews the original trial in which, Golden contends, Colier was "railroaded by the judge without any trial, nor any plea nor any questions." Golden points out that when the jury returned a verdict of acquittal, the judge sent it back and when it again found Colier innocent the judge "went out with the jury . . . and jury returned in about 20 minutes with a verdict of guilty." 4-20-47

Both moral and financial support was voted for him by the Baptist Ministers Conference in New Jersey. Rev. W. W. Fleming, president of the conference, named Rev. H. T. Borders, of the Hopewell Baptist Church, as head of a committee to raise funds.

Sun.

Hats Off!

PM New York, N.Y.

Hats Off to the New Jersey Baptist Ministers Conference and to Abram Golden, Newark attorney, for their continuing fight to save John Colier, fugitive from a South Carolina chain gang, from extradition back to the state where he was once almost tortured to death.

Sun.

Colier Wins Another Stay In Jersey

PM New York, N.Y.

Tues - 1-14-47

John Colier, 26-year-old fugitive from a South Carolina chain gang, yesterday won another few days's grace in his last-ditch fight against extradition from New Jersey when his attorney was granted four days in which to prepare a writ of habeas corpus.

The brief delay was granted by Judge Joseph Conlon after Colier was brought before Common Pleas Court in Newark on a warrant of procurement signed last week by Gov. Walter Edge.

South Carolina authorities first sought his extradition last year while Colier was serving a jail sentence for disorderly conduct in New Jersey.

At that time PM first disclosed Colier's story, and the possibility that he faces death if returned to South Carolina. Colier, during hearings last Summer, told of his re-arrest in South Carolina for stealing cigarets and tobacco five years after serving six months for the theft.

He also told of brutal beatings while serving on the chain gang, and of his escape to the North in 1938. Tues 1-14-47

Orangeburg Holds Murder Suspect In 1937 Slaying

News and Courier Charleston, S.C.

ORANGEBURG, May 25. Special: An interesting case has come to light in this county following the arrest a few days ago in Deland, Fla., of J. Lee Green, a negro of the Springfield section, who shot and killed another negro, Lemuel James, on September 26, 1937, as shown by the inquest papers now in the hands of Solicitor Julian S. Wolfe.

As soon as Green was apprehended, Solicitor Wolfe conferred with Sheriff George Reed and Deputy Sheriff J. F. Jumper. Mr. Jumper well remembered the shooting. The negro was brought back here by Deputy Sheriff Jumper having waived extradition and is in the county jail. His case will come in September and he will be charged with murder.

Most of the witnesses to the homicide are still living so the solicitor states. Immediately after the shooting Green fled as set out in his confession and went to Florida and changed his name. Mon.

Solicitor Wolfe said that the defendant will be charged with murder. So far no application has been made for bond and if application is made the solicitor said he will resist its granting. 5-26-47

Negro's Extradition To State Opposed

Birmingham News

LANSING, Mich., Sept. 5—A group of citizens at Fort Huron don't want a 33-year-old Alabama Negro to be returned to his home state for questioning.

Birmingham, Ala.

Three hundred persons petitioned Gov. Kim Sigler asking him to deny Alabama's request for extradition of the Negro, Leon T. Thornton. They said Thornton was a "good citizen," an "innocent man" and not guilty of Alabama charges. They expressed concern over the way he might be treated in Alabama. Sun. 9-7-47

A routine fingerprint check pointed to Thornton as an escape from an Alabama prison in 1933, while serving a four-year term for burglary and grand larceny. He denied the charge.

Thornton was accused of being a man known in Alabama as Ernest Robinson. He was fingerprinted after his wife charged him with non-support as result of a strike at his plant, he said.

ILLINOIS SAVES VET FROM GA. PENAL FATE

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Wed. 4-23-47

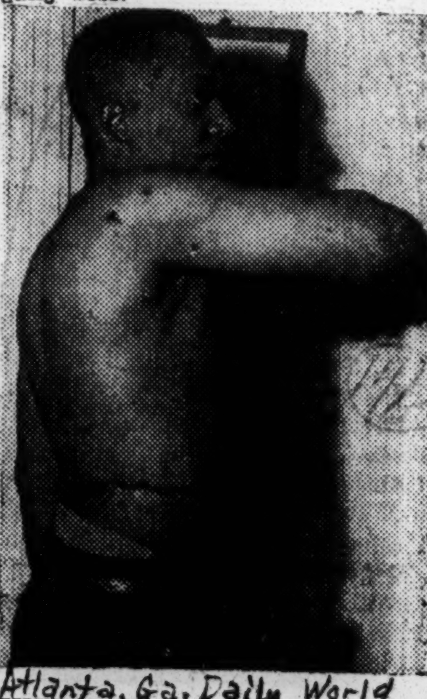
CHICAGO, Ill. — (ANP)—Illinois declined last week to return a World War II veteran to a Goergia penal farm to serve the remainder of a pre-war sentence for manslaughter

Upon learning the facts in the case of Warren Davis, the veteran who escaped from the chaingang after the chaingang boss threatened to beat him to death, Gov. Dwight H. Green refused to sign the extradition papers.

Davis was convicted of manslaughter in Atlanta in 1938 and sentenced to serve from four to seven years in the chaingang at Camp Stonewall, Ga. Atty. William Henry Huff, representing Davis, told Gov. Green. After receiving several beatings from his boss, he managed to escape and made his way to Augusta, Ga., where he secured employment as a cook with the Georgia Railway company.

Davis held that job for three years he testified, then went to New Jersey where he was inducted into the army. He served in the army forty months, being stationed both in the United States and the Pacific theater of war, and rose to the rank of staff sergeant. Davis was honorably discharged, war department records reveal. He returned to New Jersey and then came here to live with relatives. Wed. 4-23-47

Atty. Huff, regarded as the nation's foremost expert on peonage law, showed Gov. Green photographs of scars on Davis' body from beatings he received from his chaingang boss.



Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

EXTRADITION REFUSED — Governor Dwight H. Green of Illinois last week refused to send Warren Davis, above, back to serve the remainder of a pre-war sentence for manslaughter. Scars testify as to beatings received from Davis' chaingang boss. The large scar in the side, however, was sustained in self-defense at the time of the slaying, it was stated. Wed. 4-23-47

Conn. Governor Stops Extradition Of Man

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Thurs. 5-29-47

HARTFORD, Conn.—The Hartford branch, NAACP, Sunday reported that the Governor of Connecticut had refused to sign extradition papers that would send Joseph Walker, 27-year-old Negro, back to Chattanooga, Tenn. The Governor came to his decision at a hearing in which members of the branch, a, Tennessee officer and other interested persons participated. Thurs. 5-29-47

Walker was arrested early in 1945, in Chattanooga, on a charge of stealing a watch valued at approximately $50. According to Walker, the arresting officer beat him unmercifully en route to the police station, blackening both his eyes and inflicting painful wounds on his body. The more he protested his innocence, the more cruelly he was beaten, he said. He tried to explain that he received the watch as security when he loaned $10 to one of the men with whom he had been shooting crap during the afternoon and he said any of the men who were in the game could corroborate this story. The police not only refused to check his story, but they continued to beat him.

Walker finally seized a chance to escape and ran from the police car. After hiding for a few days he left Chattanooga, headed north and reached Hartford, where his wife has relatives. There he changed his name to Willie Green, went to work, saved money and, in the fall of 1946, sent for his wife. The two lived quietly until March of this year, when, as the result of a Sunday fracas, he was arrested and finger-printed in routine fashion. The Hartford charge was withdrawn since evidence showed he had no part in the disorder, but the finger-prints revealed he was the Joseph Walker who was wanted by the Tennessee police. The Chattanooga authorities were notified and Walker was told he would be returned to Tennessee. Thurs. 5-29-47

Mrs. Walker obtained the services of a young white Hartford attorney, who was very much stirred by the story she told of southern justice.

Town Aids Man Who Fled Chain Gang

Chicago Defender

PORT HURON, Mich.—Townspeople here rallied this week to the defense of 33-year-old Leon T. Thornton, who after 17 years of residence here as a responsible and hard-working citizen, was revealed to be a fugitive from an Alabama chain gang. Sat. 8-30-47

Thornton's identity was revealed by his estranged wife to be in reality Ernest Robertson who escaped from a chain-gang at Kilby prison, Montgomery, Ala., in 1929. Thornton was only 14 years old and was charged with the theft of clothing valued at less than $50.

Thornton denied the theft, and decided to fight extradition. He was supported in this by Leroy S. Wilson, president of the U S. Brass and Aluminum Co., where Thornton has worked for the past five years. Other white citizens, including city officials and three previous employers of Thornton, have rallied to his aid. Thornton's wife is reported to have revealed his true identity in retaliation for his refusal to agree to separate maintenance support.

PREFERS JERSEY CITY:

Afro-American

Escapes Ga. Chain Gang Twice, Battling Return

Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 3-8-47

JERSEY CITY — A two-front fight is being pressed by the NAACP and a Jersey City attorney to prevent the return to Georgia of a man who twice escaped the horrors of the chain gang.

The fugitive from Georgia is Thomas Ledbetter, a prisoner in Hudson County jail, where he has been fighting extradition for four months.

Part of the fight to free Ledbetter is being carried on in Georgia, where the NAACP is seeking a writ directing a review of the case from the State Supreme Court, which would enable the Governor of New Jersey to free the man. Sat. 3-8-47

Appeal to Driscoll

The second part of the effort is a direct appeal to Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll at Trenton.

Ledbetter, who denies his guilt, was first arrested in Savannah, Ga., in 1936, on charges of committing a $2.50 burglary, and was sentenced to 12 months on the chain gang.

He declares, however, that he is not guilty of the theft, but purchased a dress, allegedly stolen, for his daughter from a man on the street.

Charges Suppressed Evidence

Evidence which would have proven his innocence was not permitted to go before the court, he maintains. Sat. 3-8-47

After serving several months of the term, he escaped on July, 1937, and came to Jersey City, he said, stating that four years later, in 1941, he was picked up and returned to Georgia. In 1942, he escaped a second time and returned to Jersey City, where he was again arrested in May, 1946.

During his time on chain gangs in three Georgia prisons, the prisoner asserts that he suffered beatings, was placed in the "sweat box," wore ankle shackles, and received no medical treatment when ill.

Suit Filed To Halt Return Of Man To Ga.

St. Louis Argus

St. Louis, Mo.

Fri. 5-23-47

Joe Hudson, alias Joe Dupree, is an escaped convict from Georgia of about three years standing. He was located here about a month ago and the authorities of Georgia were notifed and they came here for him, expecting to take him back on a waiver he signed at the suggestion of the police.

Joe's friends hired Silas Garner and his associate, Joseph C. McDuffie, and they filed a petition for the writ of habeas corpus and prevented his return on the waiver.

The Georgia authorities then went to the Governor and the papers presented to the Governor recited that Hudson is charged in Georgia by what they call an "accusation." Garner and McDuffie then filed a petition in the Supreme Court of Missouri for the writ of habeas corpus attacking the Governor's warrant on the grounds that the warrant on its face showed that the Governor did not have before him at the time he issued his warrant the proper requisition papers from Georgia. The Supreme Court of Missouri on the 20th day of May, 1947, quashed the writ and remanded the prisoner but expressed the belief that it may be a good case to try out in the Federal Court, therefore, Garner, Lucas and McDuffie have filed a petition in the Federal Court for a writ. Fri. 5-23-47

The close question in the case is: Does Georgia's law make an "Accusation equal to an indictment; is the Georgia law attempting to make an accusation equal to an indictment constitutional?

Powell Taken Ill in Ga. Work Camp

The Afro-Am.

Herman Powell, Georgia chain gang fugitive who was extradited last November after 30 months in jail in Newark, is ill in a prison work camp at Reedsville, Ga., his wife, Mrs. Moddie L. Powell, said last Thursday. Sat. 2-1-47

Powell's sister, Mrs. Geneva Cooper, informed Mrs. Powell that her husband's illness is due in part to a ruling that he would have to serve seven years before he can hope for a parole.

He was serving a life sentence for killing a white woman in an automobile accident when he found refuge in New Jersey.

Seeking Transfer

Powell, who worked in a Newark war plant until his arrest as a fugitive, is seeking to obtain a transfer from the work camp to a prison at Savannah, where his mother and three sisters live.

Mrs. Powell said that she wanted to visit her husband, but feared doing so because one of the Georgia officers who returned him there told her she would be arrested if she entered the State.

Free Fugitive From Georgia Chain Gang

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 8-23-47

ST. LOUIS — (NNPA) — United States District Judge Richard M. Duncan last Tuesday ruled that an extradition request was defective and ordered freed Joseph Hudson, a fugitive from a Georgia chain gang.

Governor Phil M. Donnelly had honored Georgia's requisition that Hudson, 40-year-old fugitive who was captured here last March following his escape from a Georgia chain gang, be returned to finish serving a sentence of five to ten years for assault with intent to kill. Sat. 8-23-47

Hudson, whose home is in Oglethorpe, Ga., was arrested in 1944 for pursuing his wife with a butcher knife. He waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a criminal information. After serving one year of his sentence, he escaped and came to St. Louis, where he was employed as a laborer until his arrest as a fugitive.

At the request of clergymen, Silas E. Garner, attorney, went to Hudson's aid, filing a petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

Governor Donnelly, in granting the extradition request last May, held that Georgia's procedure of trial on a criminal information was tantamount to use of an indictment, and that the copy of the information which accompanied the extradition request was sufficient. Chief Justice Ernest M Tipton of the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in July that it was the province of a Federal rather than a state court to pass on the constitutional adequacy of the extradition papers. Sat. 8-23-47

Taking this hint, Garner went into United States District Court here. He cited the constitutional requirement that a request for extradition be accompanied either by a copy of an indictment or by an affidavit from a person with first-hand knowledge of the crime committed by the fugitive.

Fugitive To Get Trial In Extradition Fight

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill., Sat. 8-9-47

On the advice of her lawyer Madge Houston, a 25-year-old woman wanted by Kentucky authorities on a grand larceny charge, refused to sign an extradition waiver. Her refusal means that she will automatically get a court hearing to determine whether or not she should go back to face southern justice. Illinois is the only state that has such a procedure.

Refuses to Send Negro Back To Georgia

Daily Worker

New York

Sat. 9-20-47

CHICAGO, Sept. 19.—Chief Justice Cornelius Harrington overruled a decision of Gov. Dwight H. Green today and refused to send a Georgia Negro fugitive back to his native state. Sat. 9-20-47

Judge Harrington, sitting in Criminal Court, was so moved by the story of Aurelius Bibbins, 40, he refused to allow his extradition to Georgia to serve out a prison sentence. Green had honored a requisition for Bibbins' return Aug. 16.

Daily Worker

Bibbins who came to Chicago in 1944 and served briefly in the army, said he had been sentenced to serve four years in prison after he "took the rap" for a younger brother who stole 10 pounds of cheese from a railroad car in Macon.

New York

After being sentenced in 1940, Bibbins said, he worked two years on a chain gang at Gray, Ga. He escaped after he was paroled to the farm of one of his guards, where he said he worked a year and a half without pay.

Woman Beats Dixie 'Justice'

Defender Chicago, Ill

Georgia's controversy of governors had its effect in Chicago this week when extradition proceedings for the return of Mrs. Clara Ruth Summers, 40, of 7022 Cottage Grove ave., to Atlanta were dismissed by Judge Charles S. Dougherty in felony court.

The case against Mrs. Summers, accused of larceny of goods valued at $59, was dropped on the ground that an extradition warrant signed by the governor of Georgia had not been received.

Assistant State's Attorney Maurice Mettel told the court the state of Illinois could not proceed with a hearing because of the inability of Georgia authorities to obtain a warrant due to "a controversy of governors." Sat. 2-22-47

Declaring the charges against her were false, Mrs. Summes told this story to the Chicago Defender:

"I worked for G. S. Lowman, executive of the American Advertising company. One day I told his wife, Mrs. Katherine Lowman, I was going to quit for a job paying more money.

"Two days later, Mrs. Lowman claimed she missed some napkins and bed sheets. She had me arrested, and I was held in jail for a week. When released on bond, Mrs. Lowman called me, and declared she had dropped the charges."

Mrs. Summers, who came to Chicago last Sept. 12, was served with the extradition papers Feb. 3.

Saved From Extradition To Mississippi

St. Louis, Mo.

Argus. Fri. 8-29-47

Fri. 8-29-47

A 34-year-old World War II veteran won his freedom from the East St. Louis police officials as a result of a Writ of Habeas Corpus filed in his behalf by his attorneys.

Johnie Brooks, father of three infant children, was being held by the East St. Louis authorities pending extradition from the State of Mississippi, where he was sought to complete service of a life term for an alleged murder, supposedly committed seventeen years ago. He has lived in East St. Louis for the past seven years at 1226a East Broadway. Brooks was arrested July 15, 1947, and signed waiver to extradition. Because of his wife's abiding faith in him and with the help of friends in East St. Louis Attorneys Thomas P. Clark of St. Louis and Edward L. Patterson, Jr., and Louie F. Orr of East St. Louis, a Writ of Habeas Corpus was filed in the City Court of East St.Louis.

Records were obtained from the State of Mississippi, establishing the fact that Brooks had not had legal representation at the "trial" seventeen years ago. Further, that he was indicted by a grand jury for killing a man on a date which was shown to be three months after the date of his death shown on his death certificate.

Convinced that Brooks should not be imprisoned under the evidence assembled by his attorneys, Clarke and Patterson requested and were granted a hearing before Governor Dwight W. Green of Illinois. On August 8, 1947, this hearing was had, at which time Brooks and his attorneys and representatives of the State of Mississippi were present.

After the hearing concluded, the evidence presented to the Governor was such as to convince him that Brooks should not be surrendered to the State of Mississippi and refused to issue his warrant.

This is one of the few times if not the first, that the present Governor of Illinois has not issued his warrant upon an extradition requisition from another state.

Chain Gang Fugitive Fights to Stay in Mich.

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

PORT HURON, Mich. — (ANP) —A real life story of "I'm a fugitive from the chain gang," in Alabama, has to do with Ernest Robinson who is fighting extradition. Alabama authorities who seek Robinson's return claim that he escaped after having served only a few months of a five-year sentence.

Aiding Robinson in his fight to remain in Michigan is State's Atty Gen. Eugene F. Black who will not represent Alabama in prosecuting the extradition. Robinson has been living here under the name of Leon Thornton. The decision now rests with Gov. Sigler. 9-27-47

Juries Asked To Get Tough In Slayings

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
Thurs. 3-6-47

Negro Affrays Result In Many Homicides, Solicitor Says

In the Circuit Court yesterday, County Solicitor W. Temple Seibels complained that Montgomery juries were not being sufficiently serious in their attitude towards trials involving Negroes.

"About four-fifths of the people who come before this Court," said the Solicitor, "are Negroes, who keep the Judge up there (Judge Eugene Carter), myself and other officials constantly busy.

These Negroes do not seem to be able to play cards, or shoot dice or pool, without squabbling, fighting, wounding or killing each other. Thurs. 3-6-47

"Then they appeal to our juries, and this court, for justice."

Seibels then complained of the extremely lenient view Montgomery juries took, even after they had been convicted of a Negro's guilt. "You have got to take these cases far more seriously" he said.

The Solicitor was addressing the jury at the conclusion of the trial of James Williams, Negro, accused of killing Willie James Gholson, a 15-year-old Negro, with a billiard cue.

The case concerned a brawl in a Negro pool room on the night of January 31, occasioned by a disagreement about using the blunt end of a billard cue, the payment of a nickel for the use of the table, and a game of whist. Gholson died as a result of a blow on the head, suffered in the brawl, and the heavy end of the broken cue was exhibited in the Court.

The accused Negro, Williams, had been previously convicted of burglary in a Michigan Court, it was said, and was on parole. Seibels had the charge reduced from murder to manslaughter in the first degree, but the jury nevertheless found in favor of the Negro. Thurs.

This was the last case on this term's criminal docket. 3-6-47

Negro Given Death Sentence For Slaying Of Aged 'Miser'

Montgomery Ala. Advertiser

James Shaver, Negro, was last night sentenced to die in the electric chair, by a Montgomery Circuit Court jury. Shaver was found guilty of murder in the first degree of his great uncle, 60-year-old Tony Peterson, a Negro "miser," axed to death on Good Friday night, April 4.

The body was discovered several days later in the old man's locked and shuttered house, described by the County Coroner as "a filthy hovel" in which the atmosphere was almost beyond human endurance." The murdered man's head had been battered and a piece of sack cloth thrown over it.

In the course of evidence it was revealed that Shaver had a bad penitentiary record, and at the time he was charged with Peterson's murder, was also wanted in Baldwin County, where he had skipped bond, for burglary and grand larceny.

Evidence Offered

After Dr. M. B. Kirkpatrick, the coroner, had described the conditions under which the body was found, stained clothing and a knife were introduced into court. Thurs. 6-5-47

Annie Swanson, Negro woman, who lived opposite Peterson, testified that she had seen Shaver enter his uncle's place between 4:30 and 5 p.m., Good Friday, and had not seen the old man alive after that, though she was in the habit of seeing him come and go most days. She knew he was dead on the Tuesday after Easter "when the police busted the door open," she said.

Count Money

An elderly Negro woman, who said she had lived with Peterson for "about 26 years" and who described herself as "his keeper" said the two had worked together for years on the city dump. On the Wednesday before Easter the two of them had counted out the old man's savings. They counted about $900 "some of which" she said "was so old and greasy that the notes could hardly be read." The witness last saw Peterson early on the Friday. She said the old man had earned about four or five dollars a week, and had saved everything he could for years.

Successive witnesses testified that the accused, Shaver, had been in possession of "dirty and greasy dollar bills." Negro witnesses told the court of a gambling party Shaver had joined, when, they claimed, the defendant had lost $147 at a card game called "Skin," on Easter Sunday. The same witnesses testified that Shaver had purchased gin on the premises at two dollars a half pint. Thurs. 6-5-47

A Negro taxi-cab remembered taking Shaver and a Negro woman to an address that Friday night, and finding a wallet for him during the night which, he asserted, was full of money. The woman said she had received seven dollars from Shaver and on the same Friday night, had earlier shared in the drinking of two quarts of wine and a pint of gin at a Negro cafe with him.

In a statement made to the police, Shaver had claimed, however, that he had gone home that Friday night at about midnight, but his "wife," a young Negro woman who gave her name as Annie Lee Thomas, and claimed that she had lived with Shaver three weeks, said he had not come at all that night.

When Shaver was put on the witness stand, he denied he had been to his uncle's place on the day of the murder was said to have been committed, alleged he had been ill-treated at police headquarters, and said he had won "a hundred and something dollars in a dice game at a place called the "Silver Moon" on the Thursday before Easter.

From Nose Bleed

Under searching cross-examination from Solicitor W. Temple Seibels, however, the Negro admitted that half of one statement, which he had given voluntarily was untrue, and that the second statement which he claimed the police had forced from him, he admitted to the Court was, after all, not incriminating. He said that blood on his clothes was caused from a nose bleed, and the blood on his shoes had come from a mule yard where he had worked after the slaughter of a mule.

The attorney for the defense, in his statement to the jury, stressed the evidence was circumstantial; that only a Negro woman was a witness who claimed to have seen Shaver at the dead man's house on the Friday; that when she claimed she saw him, the daylight was, at least, fading. He suggested mistaken identity on her part. The attorney also discounted the evidence of the "dirty money" as an idea which had got into circulation among the witnesses, and said that money could get dirty in many ways. He appealed to the jury not to convict on such evidence, but agreed that if they did convict it should be the death penalty. He asked for acquittal.

Seibels drew the attention of the jury to the absence of one single witness of the alleged dice game at the Silver Moon, and after summarizing the evidence, and of the agreement among all the Negro witnesses, concluded: "There should be no halfway sentence in this case: Shaver should be given the chair, and you will do a favor to your state if you return such a verdict. You can't conjure up a more atrocious crime than this, in which an old man was brutally murdered by his great nephew, for his money, and his body afterwards locked in an old house, while the murderer went off to drink, go with women and gamble with the money.

The jury retired at 5:35 p.m. and had reached their verdict only 22 minutes later.

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7 Negroes Slain To Each White In Birmingham

Chicago Def
Chicago, Ill.
Defender
Sat. 2-1-47

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Seven out of eight homicides in Birmingham for 1946 were Negro citizens, according to figures released by Coroner Joe Hildebrand.

Currently there have been three slayings in January of this year, all of them Negro and two being "justifiable" homicides by city police officers.

There were reported 83 homicides in Birmingham for 1946 of which 70 were Negroes and 13 were whites.

14c 1947

Crime Prevention Society of America

Ft. Worth Body Chartered To Fight Crime

14

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

FT. WORTH, Tex.—Chartered in May, the Crime Prevention Society of America, with headquarters at 411½ E. 9th st., launched a program which not only marks another milestone in Negro progress in the city but also has already done much to curb juvenile delinquency.

Sat. 8-30-47

The Society's program for keeping down crime includes a free employment service, special religious, industrial, educational and character training through lectures for both children and adults.

It provides wholesome recreation and qualified supervisors for community projects in various communities in the city for Negro youths where they are needed.

It administers temporary benevolent aid to wayfaring and neglected youths after careful and satisfactory investigations and provides proper supervision and care to juveniles who have been apprehended for some misdemeanor and adults who have been paroled from some penal institution in an effort to rehabilitate them.

It also furnishes general information on all matters pertaining to human betterment.

Founded In Louisiana

The society was founded and organized in Alexandria, La., in 1934 by Rev. M. W. Knox who at that time was serving as chaplain and supervisor of parish jails in Alexandria, La., under the late Sheriff U. T. Downs of Alexandria, Rapides parish. Reverend Knox came to Ft. Worth in 1942 to serve as chaplain and federal guard at the U. S. public health service hospital.

Today the society in Ft. Worth has approximately 2000 contributing adult members and children who are known as Junior Commanders. The society sponsors seven community recreational projects, maintains an office in the McDonald building at 411½ East 9th st., Room 10, with a competent and efficient office staff in Robert Osby, assistant to the executive general director; Miss Marye Madeline Cravin, office clerk; and Mrs. Darnetta Hemphill, assistant clerk and office receptionist; and Rev. M. W. Knox who is the national executive general director of the society.

Sat. 8-30-47

Cleric Is President

The executive officers of the society are as follows: Rev. W. L. Brown, president; Rev. W. J. Burroughs and H. W. Howard, vice presidents; Mr. W. E. Smith, secretary, Mrs. B M. Roberts, assistant secretary; Alvin Hicks, treasurer; and I. B. Bowden, chaplain.

14c 1947

General

Leniency Where Race Murderers Are Concerned

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

BY LUTHER A. TOWNSLEY

Sun. 2-23-47

CHICAGO — (ANP) — A Negro may expect leniency when he kills another Negro, but he is almost certain to get the full extent of the law when he kills a white man.

That fact, well known to American Negroes in general, particularly those living below the Mason-Dixon line, accounts in large measure for the high homicide rate throughout the nation. Racism supports which supremacy, the theory of white racial superiority, and white supremacy under values the lives of Negroes.

All white juries frequently take the attitude that the murder of a Negro is a mere prank. White law enforcement officials do not exert themselves to apprehend the slayer, since it is an affair between Negroes. Some white jurists become extremely lenient, particularly if they know the killer's employer. In some parts of the south, a Negro has only to identify his boss when he kills another Negro and he either goes free or receives mere token punishment.

DISCOURAGEMENT FACTORS

A nationwide survey by the Associated Negro Press on Negro and white homicide statistics indicate that the killing of Negroes by Negroes could be discouraged by:

1. The inclusion of Negroes on juries that try Negroes for killing Negroes.
2. The addition of more Negro police to protect Negro communities.

Daily World

3. A greater determinaiton of Negroes to demand the full penalty for the murder of Negroes by Negroes.

Atlanta, Ga.

4. More educational, entertainment and recreational opportunities in all-Negro communities.
5. Better housing.

Sun. 2-23-47

BALLENGER OPINION

Asked how the number of murders by Negroes could be lessened, John F. Ballenger, Detroit's police commissioner said, "we would sum our suggestions up in the word—opportunity for education, opportunity for employment, opportunity to secure better housing, opportunity for better health facilities, opportunity for better recreational facilities.

'More education for both races," is the solution to the problem, according to Lieutenant of Detectives Peter A. Connors, of Pittsburgh.

Drunken brawls were the most common causes of murder in Miami said R. G. Danner, city manager. During 1945, 22 of the 25 murders committed in the city were committed by Negroes, he reported. Negroes committed 14 of the 18 killings last year, he said.

A recapitulation on New Orleans' homicide record for 1946 reads white males 11, white females six, colored males 46, and colored females 12. In other words, Negro homicides constituted 77 per cent of the total. But in Norfolk, Va., Negro homicides were a mere 35 per cent. Out of a total of 197 murders there, only 69 were committed by Negroes.

Cincinnati ranked next to New Orleans last year in the high Negro homicide rate. Of the 52 murders committed in that city in 1946 both victims and suspects in 38 cases were Negroes, which gave Cincinnati Negroes a 73 per cent average in all the city's slayings. A breakdown on motives showed arguments and fights accounted for 22 killings, sex jealously, 13, family or domestic trouble eight, self protecton, five, need of money two and unknown two, said H. A. Rinck, supervisr of police records. 14c

The same motives might apply to the high Negro homicide rate in Washington, D. C., over the past six years. Known for its intense jim crow, Negroes in the nation's capital contirbuted 77 per cent in 1942, 77 per cent in 1943, 73 per cent in 1944, 76 per cent in 1945 and 74 percent in 1946. 2-23-47

ANP's Survey Reveals Homicide Rates Lower in Integrated Communities

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 3-1-47

Lily-White Courts, Police Departments Lenient Toward Non-White Criminals

CHICAGO (ANP)—A recent nationwide survey taken by the Associated Negro Press on statistics of homicides indicates that where patterns of integration or civic pride are highest, our group looms less menacing on lists of crimes involving killing.

As examples, in Portland, Ore., out of 14 homicides reported last year, only three were of non-whites who killed non-whites; while in Little Rock, Ark., a jim-crow city, 89 per cent of the homicides were contributed by the non-white group.

In Miami, Fla., where racial lines are drawn most sharply, out of 25 murders committed in 1945, only three were contributed by whites; yet in Norfolk, Va., where race pride is cultivated, despite the jim-crow pattern, only 35 per cent of the killings involved non-whites. Sat. 3-1-47

Capital's Record Bad

Washington, the Nation's Capital, reeking with jim crow, showed homicides involving minority group members to have been 74 per cent last year; yet in Pittsburgh, where integration is effected, the rate showed less than 50 per cent, during 1946.

Cincinnati, O., where jim crow begins, had a rate of 73 per cent homicide for non-whites; while Detroit and San Francisco, integrated cities, reecal less than 50 per cent of minority group members invloved in killings.

Steps to Check Killing

ANP's survey suggests that the following steps will decrease the relative racial discrepancy in killings:

The inclusion of persons other than white on juries to try non-white homicide cases; the addition of more police, who are not white in on-white communities; a greater community determination to demand the full penalty for killing;

More educational, entertainment and recreational opportunities in all-colored communities; and better housing and health facilities for minority group members.

Attitudes at Fault

The fact that a person who is not white may expect more leniency when he kills another such person than if he kills a white one was cited to justify the first three recommendations.

Well known o persons who live below the Mason-Dixon line, the fact accounts in large measure, for the high minority homicide rate throughout the nation, \the survey points out. Sat. 3-1-47

Crime Lightly Regarded

All-white juries frequently take the attitude that minority group murders are mere pranks; and white law enforcement agencies do not exert themselves to apprehend the slayers, it sets forth.

In some parts of he South, it was revealed, a worker merely has to notify his boss when he kills another person of his race and he either goes free or receives merely token punishment.

Need Opportunity, Education

Asked how the number of homicides by non-white citizens could be lessened, John F. Ballenger, Detroit's police comissioner, said, "we would sum our suggestions up in one word—opportunity," for social advancement.

Peter A. Connors, lieutenant of detectives, Pittsburgh, believes "more education for both races" is the solution t he problem.

GEORGIA LEADS

Negroes Take Out on Own What They'd Like to Take Out on Whites

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

14c

By BENJAMIN E. MAYS

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

Sat. 6-28-47

WE are likely to accuse New New York and Chicago of being worse than they really are. There are many people who are afraid of Harlem and stand in complete fear of South Side Chicago. Dens of vice are found in both places and many crimes are committed.

[redacted]

Mr. Mays

But in some respects Atlanta may be worse than Chicago; Birmingham may be worse than New York, and Memphis may outstrip Philadelphia in the number of people murdered per 100,000.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that over a period of ten years there have been 73,000 known murders. The number of murderers who are not apprehended is rather high. Arrests are made in eighty-six out of 100 cases. Of the 73,000 just referred to, 63,000 were cleared by arrests. In only 50 per cent of the cases is there some sort of punishment. It seems therefore that in many instances the murderers are justified in killing their victims as shown by the fact that only 50 per cent of them are punished.

* * *

AS ONE MIGHT expect, the largest number of murders were in New York City—346. But when we consider New York's large population, life is much safer in New York than it is in many sections of America. In 1946 Georgia led the Nation in the number of murders per 100,000. For example, in 1946 there were 25.35 murders per 100,000 in Georgia, Alabama followed a close second with 24.42 murders per 100,000. As strange as it may seem New York State was far down the list with only 3.63 murders per 100,000. This simply means that one's chance of being murdered in Georgia is almost seven times greater than it is in New York. Sat. 6-28-47.

The Atlanta Journal of May 25, from which these statistics were taken, commenting on this situation, makes the following significant remarks: "Local authorities have little hope that Georgia will ever climb from its high murder rate, compared with other States." However, policemen pointed out that that is mainly because of the high murder rate among Negroes.

* * *

THE FACT THAT Negroes kill one another more frequently than any other racial groups in America and that more Negroes are killed per 100,000 than in other groups no one can deny. And to explain the reasons doesn't change the fact.

But the circumstances under which Negroes live have much to do with the murder rate among Negroes. Negroes live at the foot of the economic ladder. They are more illiterate. More Negroes live in slums and in crowded, congested areas. And Negroes are more proscribed and circumscribed than other racial groups.

All these conditions must be improved before there will be any appreciable change in the murder rate among Negroes. And it must not be forgotten that more Negroes are killed by policemen than is the case with the other groups. Sat. 6-28-47

I THINK I have said in this column before that Negroes kill each other, frequently because they take out on Negroes what they would like to take out on white people. The Negro is so circumscribed in Southern life that he often moves in fear from day to day. In his job he must be careful to say and do the things most acceptable to his white employers. As he elbows his way through crowded, congested streets he must be careful. As he trades he must, as a rule, be more polite than others. If he gets angry and wants to give someone a tongue-lashing he dares not if a white person is the object of his wrath.

So when he goes home or goes to a strictly Negro environment, he must let out this pent-up emotion. His wife or child may get it. If he drinks or gambles, his comrade may get it. He has been a coward all day in another environment, so he must now prove that he is a bully.

If the Negro were treated more humanly, if he were permitted to enjoy all the civil rights that others enjoy, if his economic life were better, and if he could move more relaxed in our society, his murder rate would decline rapidly. To this end the struggle must never cease until victory is completely won to make Negroes first-rate citizens.

14c

Murder and The Crime Parade

The Atlanta Constitution
Pub. Atlanta Ga.

Just how risky is murder, anyhow?

Crime in general reached a 10-year high in 1946, and murder led this evil parade with the greatest percentage increase—23.3. Wed 7-13-47

In the past decade, the United States has had 73,000 murders known to police.

Further perusal of the statistics reveal the answer to the top question. It still is rather risky to commit murder. Of the 73,000 murders, the FBI reports 63,000 "cleared by arrest."

But the disturbing fact remains that if we allow for the fact that one person may have killed several persons, and for the suicide by killers before their arrest, it is obvious that several thousand killers are still on the loose.

Murders in rural communities showed a greater percentage increase than those in cities, 28.3 in rural areas and 17.3 in cities.

Leader

Georgia has the dubious honor of leading the nation in 1946, on a population basis. Georgia had 25.35 murders per 100,000 population. Next was Alabama with 24.42.

New York City had the largest number of murders, 346, but New York State was well down the list in murders per 100,000 population, the percentage being 3.63.

Negro murders led. What the South refuses to face is that its ancient custom of treating Negro murders as "just another nigger killing" is causing the South to reap an inevitable crop of Negro crime, and subjects the law-abiding Negroes to undue and unreasonable violence within their own ranks. Because white juries almost invariably treat more or less lightly the crime of murder when it is confined to the Negro race, murder of Negro by Negro, and violent crime of Negro against Negro, remains high. There is little fear of the law. Indeed, this is one of the reasons why most Southern cities now have Negro policemen within Negro sections. It generally is lost sight of, but the undisputable fact remains that Negro criminals do most violence to Negroes.

But crime increases are about the same for both races.

Average

In an average year for the period of 1936-45 there were 7,323 murders in this country. Their disposition was as follows:

Six thousand three hundred twelve cases were listed by police as "cleared by arrest."

Six thousand two hundred sixty-eight persons were charged and held for prosecution.

Two thousand seven hundred thirty-one were found guilty as charged.

Nine hundred fifty-two were found guilty of a lesser charge.

One hundred and twelve were put to death (six States have no capital punishment).

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover believes the great majority of murders are solved by arrest.

"The fact," said Mr. Hoover, "that every 1,000 murders during the last 10 years were followed by only 502 convictions does not mean that nearly half of the murders go unsolved. As a matter of fact, in the past 10 years 86.2 percent of all murders were solved and persons were arrested by the police on charges of murder.

"Following the solution of a murder case by the arrest of any individual, there are many factors which intervene for which the police are not directly responsible.

"For example, in some cases the offender commits suicide; in others the coroner's jury or the grand jury refuses either to hold or indict the offender. Likewise, it is not uncommon for one offender to be tried and convicted on only one murder charge and yet be responsible for two or three homicides."

Murder still is risky.

Why?

This country has a legend of lawlessness. In its formative years there was little law. In many frontier regions there was none. Even when law came it was inadequate. It was moulded and shaped by the wide spaces and the fact that communications did not exist. Self-protection could not wait on the law because of the isolated settlers, communities and lack of communication. Even yet, many people live far from, and without, protection.

Britain, Holland, the Scandinavian countries, and most of Europe look upon our murder record with complete inability to comprehend it.

To the thoughtful citizen in this country, it must already be apparent that if we do not come of age, if we do not realize that crime must have swifter punishment, that juvenile direction and understanding must be studied and reoriented, we will go on to break down our system of law and order.

Murder is risky. But fear of punishment does not serve as the deterrent we desire, or hoped for.

Insult To Race

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

Editor Constitution: As a daily reader of the Constitution I would like to commend you on your editorial "Murder and the Crime Parade." It is sad to know that the Negroes lead in this parade. You are correct in saying that the South aggravates it by treating them as "just another Negro killing." Negroes who murder Negroes should be made to pay the same penalty as they would if they murdered a white man. Georgia's white lawyers will argue for the Negroes to be freed and take their money and the all-white jury will free them. Tues. 9-2-47

Negroes will always murder one another when they know they will be freed easily. I think it is an insult to the Negro race to have murderers and other law breakers freed because their crime was confined to fellow Negroes. Georgia and the Negro will always lead in murder until the Negroes are punished to the fullest extent for their crimes against Negroes instead of paying a dollar down and a dollar a week.

CHARLES W. WESTBROOKS.
Gainesville.

14c 1947

Georgia

RALPH T. JONES

atlanta Constitution

14c

What Is the Price of Murder in Atlanta?

Sun. 7/13/47

Wonder how many people read the reports of our successive grand juries, published in the daily papers? There is always a wealth of food for thought for the conscientious citizen in these reports.

The report of the May-June, 1947, Grand Jury was published last Tuesday morning There were many points of high public interest. I would like, however, to quote just one paragraph as a sort of text, this morning. It is a paragraph addressed jointly to the churches and newspapers of Fulton County. Here it is:

"As many murders are committed with only slight provocation, we feel that a great public service may be performed by our churches and daily newspapers, checking the records of criminal cases before our courts, and commenting on them to the public that an aroused public would be the greatest deterrent from crime."

There it is. Insofar as the daily newspapers are concerned, I am confident our courthouse reporters do make properly careful check on the criminal case records. Likewise that the papers publish all the facts that space permits on such cases. The reading public, as a matter of fact, demands this service from its papers.

That the so-called "good people," however, are too often inclined to assume that what they don't know isn't so, and, therefore, refuse to admit some disagreeable truths, is, I am afraid, a too-frequent condition. And I include in this category some of our clergy.

A Delegation Some years ago a delegation of some half-dozen of the most prominent Negro ministers of the city called at this office. **Their spokesman explained the reason for the call. Briefly, they sought editorial support for an effort to secure stiffer sentences on those of their own race found guilty of murder. They believed the courts were too lenient on Negroes who had killed Negroes and felt that the best way to reduce the homicide rate among their race was by seeking more severe penalties for the killers.**

Sun. 7/13/47

"Our courts," they said, "are too apt to assume the attitude, when a Negro murders another Negro of "oh, it's just another Negro killing." The solicitor's office too often assigns a young attache to the case, an inexperienced lawyer who hasn't the capacity to properly impress the jury with the seriousness of the case.

"Too many guilty Negro killers receive a comparatively mild prison sentence, establish a good record in prison and get out on parole after a very few years.

"The result is that it is possible on Decatur Street or in its environs to hire a Negro to kill another Negro for $25 and the promise of lawyer fees if he is arrested and tried. That's a pretty cheap price for a human life."

We did do some editorializing on the situation, both at the time and since. Whether the condition has improved since, I don't know. I'll have to ask that courthouse reporter to check the records.

Atlanta, Ga.

Their Opportunity The Negro ministers in that delegation said they were doing all possible, from their pulpits, to remedy the state of homicidal affairs.

Evidently, the grand jury believes that intensified pulpit influence is desirable. For both races, presumably.

Atlanta's homicide rate is shockingly high. Annual national statistics invariably reveal the homicide rate, per 100,000 population, is highest in Southern cities. Usually Atlanta, Memphis, Birmingham, New Orleans are among the worst cities of the nation in this respect.

Racially, the homicide rate is undoubtedly higher among Negroes than the white population. Informed Negroes themselves will admit this. At the same time there are far too many white homicides. Our own rate is shockingly high.

It may be that there is something in the Southern atmosphere that loosens trigger fingers, that makes the crime of murder come easier. It may be that human life is held more cheaply here.

Whatever the cause, the grand jury paragraph quoted is food for thought. Perhaps the press and the pulpit could do more than is being done to improve the murder record in Atlanta and in Fulton County.

14c 1947

Japanese by Negroes (Japan)

Ala. Private Arrested In Japan Slayings

Light House Informer

Columbia S.C.

TOKYO, (NNPA).-Private Stratman Armistead, Thomasville, Alabama, was captured last Monday morning, when he tripped and fell while fleeing from Counter Intelligence Division agents in the vicinity of Takatsu between Yokohama and Chofu; Eighth Army of Takatsu between Yokohama and Chofu Eighth Army disclosed.

Light House Infor

An intene search had been going on for the man since the brutal hammer slaying of four Japanese in the tiny village of Ebina-machi near the Fourth Replacement Depot, Early on the morning of Sunday, October 26.

Columbia. S.C.

It had centered in a 10-mile wooded, hilly area near the Tama gawa River after military police of the First Calvary Division gave chase to a soldier resembling the description of Armistead in that area Thursday of last week.

He was located near the town o Tsudayama last Monday morning was driven into a cordon of Japanese police by two CID agents, an arrested. Sun. 11-23-47

At the time of the killings, Armistead was AWOL from the Reppl Depot where he was awaiting shipment home. Prior to that he was assigned to Showa Air Base.

No announcement has been made thus far by officials as to whether interrogation of the captive has shed new light on the case.

He is in the custody of CID pending completion of their investigation.

Negro Is Sentenced In Murder Attempt

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Fri. 1-31-47

Nathan James, 37-year-old Negro, of 3361 North 31st Street, charged with assault with intent to murder Birmingham Police Officer T. H. Cook, pleaded guilty yesterday before Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler and, on the recommendation of Asst. Circuit Solicitor Willard McCall, was given a 10-year prison sentence. The News

The assault occurred after police officers had approached James in the bus terminal, receiving a report he was carrying a weapon. The officers said the Negro fired three shots and ran. He was later apprehended hiding under a bush in a nearby park. Fri. 1-31-47

Court Affirms Death Orders

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Jefferson Judge Wins Authority To Rule On City Law

Fri. 1-17-47

Death sentences of two Negro men were upheld today by the State Supreme Court which also affirmed authority of Jefferson County Probate Judge Eugene H. Hawkins to rule on a proposed city ordinance.

Phillip Cobb, 23-year-old convicted wife-slayer of Montgomery, and Lawrence Nathaniel Phillips, 22, found guilty in connection with the slaying of a Gadsden laundry operator, were the condemned men whose sentences were sustained.

Phillips was found guilty by an Etowah Circuit Jury of beating Henry Louie, Gadsden laundryman, to death with a hammer in April, 1945. The lower court sentence had been previously sustained by the Supreme Court. The case was back on a petition for rehearing.

The electrocution date for Cobb was set for March 7. Phillips, whose petition was denied, is scheduled to die exactly one week later. Fri. 1-17-47

Slayer Of Boss Is Electrocuted

The Advertiser
Fri 3-14-47
Montgomery Ala

Negro Pays For His Crime Of Eight Years Ago

Booker T. Brooks, Chambers County Negro, died in the electric chair at Kilby Prison at 12:25 a.m. today for the slaying of his white employer, Leslie Brooks, in Chambers County, in 1939.

Brooks, just prior to receiving the first of two charges of electricity admitted committing the crime "by accident" He received the first charge at 12:20 a.m., and the second at 12:23 a.m.

Yesterday the Negro pleaded with Governor Folsom for mercy at a clemency hearing and it was not until about four hours before execution time that Folsom announced his decision to let the law take its course.

Convicted of slaying the white man with a shotgun at the latter's home, Brooks left the State and was not apprehended until in 1945, when he was found in West Virginia. He was returned to Alabama, tried and given the death penalty. 3-14-47

In his personal appearance before the chief executive Thursday afternoon the Negro clained he did not know his employer had been killed until two years later. He explained that he had been "tussling" with his wife, who was Leslie Brooks' cook, and that his shotgun must have been discharged without his knowledge.

The defendant told the governor the white man had shot at him previously and that when he heard the report of a gun on the morning his employer was killed, he thought he was being fired on again, and ran from the house.

He said he had chased his wife into the white man's house and that she had called to the employer that "Booker T. is here—come out and shoot him." 3-14-47

Charlie Moon, who was circuit solicitor at the time of the trial, testified at the hearing today that the killing was "inexcusable" and that he was not prejudiced because of the defendant's race. He contended Brooks shot the white man either deliberately or in trying to kill his own wife, and asserted that in either case the shooting was "indefensible."

Lawyer's Efforts Fail To Halt Execution Of Convicted Negro

Birmingham News
Fri 3-14-47
Birmingham, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., March 14—(AP)—As his attorney unsuccessfully sought a last-minute reprieve, Booker T. Brooks, 31-year-old Negro convicted of slaying his white employer, was put to death in the state's electric chair at Kilby Prison early today. 3-14-47

The condemned man, strapped in the chair at 12:20 a.m. (CST) and declared dead five minutes later, died without making a public statement but he was quoted by a prison chaplain as saying he killed his employer in self defense.

Gov. James E. Folsom announced a refusal of executive clemency four hours before the execution deadline in the first such action of his administration. His decision followed a hearing earlier in the day during which Brooks pleaded for mercy. Birmingham News

For two hours prior to the electrocution, Brooks' attorney, R. C. Wallace, of LaFayette, repeatedly telephoned the prison to say he was attempting to reach the governor for a last minute stay so the case could be carried to the U. S. Supreme Court. Fri 3-14-47

Prison officials, however, said they were powerless to delay the execution without direct word from the governor. Birmingham, Ala.

Brooks was convicted of slaying Leslie Brooks in Chambers County, Alabama, in 1939. He was not apprehended until 1945 when he was located in West Virginia.

Negro Executed For 1945 Killing

Advertiser

Garrett Declares Innocence Until Death Strikes

Montgomery
Alabama.

Diminutive Israel Garrett, who killed his wife and received a life sentence 15 years ago, died early this morning in the electric chair at Kilby Prison for the murder of Ruby Tolliver, a Negro woman, whose body was found in a shallow grave in Russell County two years ago.

After losing a last minute fight yesterday in an appeal for clemency to Gov. Folsom, Garrett was electrocuted at 12:09 a.m., today. The second charge was thrown at 12:11 a.m., and he was pronounced dead by two physicians at 12:12 a.m.

Garrett went to his death quiet and orderly with the last words, "Carry me down innocent this time as I am not guilty of this crime."

Gov. Folsom refused to interfere with the verdict of a Russell County circuit court jury and ordered the 45-year-old Negro to be put to death.

Garrett readily admitted in his clemency appeal before the governor that he slew his wife in 1932. He denied, however, any connection with the killing of Ruby Tolliver while he was on parole from his life term.

Contradicting his testimony, Circuit Solicitor Gus Borders told the governor Garrett had confessed to the killing at the time of his arrest and pointed out the location of the Tolliver woman's grave. Fri 5-23-47

Mother Pleads For Son's Life

Montgomery Advertiser

Negro Scheduled To Die For Slaying Termed 'Not Just Right'

Attorneys for Lawrence Nathaniel Phillips, 22-year-old Negro scheduled to die early tomorrow morning for the hammer slaying of a Chinese laundryman in Gadsden, urged Gov. James E. Folsom today to commute the penalty to life imprisonment because of "circumstances" surrounding the killing. Thurs. 8-14-47

The governor said he would withhold announcement of his decision until later, probably this afternoon. Mont, Ala.

E. L. Roberts, Gadsden lawyer and member of the House of Representatives, told the chief executive during a clemency hearing that Phillips, whom he described as a "moron," killed Henry Louis in April, 1945 because he discovered the latter was having an affair with his wife.

E. G. Pilcher, Etowah County solicitor at the time of the incident, disputed that claim, asserting the Negro and his wife killed the laundryman to rob him. Phillips' wife is serving 25 years for her part in the crime, he added.

Terming it "one of the bloodiest and most hideous crimes ever recorded," Pilcher said Phillips and his wife, who worked for Louie in the laundry, "willfully and premeditately and with malice aforethought," planned and executed the crime to rob the laundryman.

Pilcher, along with Special Presecutors Will Raines of Gadsden and Alta L. King of Birmingham, said Phillips made a voluntary statement to Gadsden Police Chief Fay Boman and other officers telling the details of the commission of the crime. The statement told the officers what the Negro had done with the hammer used to kill Louie, the shoes and clothes he had worn, Pilcher asserted.

Phillips, one of 28 children in his family, appeared calm throughout the hearing and did not make a statement as has been customary in past clemency cases.

However, his mother and an elder brother and sister testified the Nrgro was of low mentality and that he had never been like other people. When a child, they said, he refused to play with other children, running off by himself.

The mother and sister said when the defendant was three months old, six doctors in Des Moines, Iowa, pronounced him dead. He lay, apparently lifeless, for eight days, they said, his eyes open and covered with a "skim."

When the undertaker came for the body, they said, the mother, claiming she could hear heartbeats at irregular intervals although the body was cold, refused to let Phillips be buried. He recovered, they added, but since then he has not been "just right."

"I'm here before the governor, at your feet, pleading for mercy," Phillips' mother said. "Not for my child's sake, but for mine."

Originally scheduled to die last December, the Gadsden Negro has received four reprieves from the Kilby prison electric chair. The last stay of execution was granted to allow a special sanity commission appointed by the governor to examine Phillips. The commission held the Negro was of sound mind. Thurs. Aug. 14-47

Gadsden Negro Files Habeas Corpus Plea

Montgomery Advertiser
Ala.

Lawrence Nathaniel Phillips' appeal for a habeas corpus writ to save him from the electric chair will be heard by the State Supreme Court today less than three days before the Gadsden Negro is scheduled to die. 11-4-47

Phillips appealed to the Supreme Court after his petition was first denied by Circuit Judge Eugene Carter, in Montgomery. The petition contended the Negro's conviction on a charge of murder rested on a confession allegedly obtained under duress.

Already reprieved seven times, Phillips is scheduled to die at Kilby Prison early Friday morning for the killing of Henry Louie, Gadsden laundry operator, but unless the Supreme Court acts on the habeas corpus appeal before then, he probably will get a further stay of execution. Tues.

The tribunal already has upheld the conviction and death sentence.

Condemned Negro's Appeal Goes To Court

News
Birmingham, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 4—(AP)—The State Supreme Court is scheduled to hear an appeal today from Lawrence Nathaniel Phillips, Gadsden Negro, seeking a habeas corpus writ to save him from the electric chair. Tues. 11-4-47

The petition was denied by Judge Eugene Carter in Montgomery Circuit Court and Phillips appealed to the Supreme Court. He is scheduled to die at Kilby Prison early Friday morning, but unless the tribunal makes known its decision before then, the Negro probably will get another reprieve. Tues.

Phillips was convicted of killing Henry Louie, Gadsden laundryman. In his plea for a habeas corpus, he contends his conviction rested on a confession allegedly obtained under duress.

He has received seven stays of execution. Tues. 11-4-47

14C

Charges Forced Confession

Birmingham Stable Boy Is Given Life Sentence

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 11-1-47

(Ala.)

By REV. JOEL C. CARSON

BIRMINGHAM—Following a trial in which he stated that a murder confession was beaten from him during a two-day period, Walter Simmons Jr., 19, last week was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of Theatre Manager W. H. Merritt, 53, white, for whom he worked as a stable boy.

Sat. 11-1-47

The alleged murder took place in Merritt's home last June 30 during an attempted burglary by the youth, according to police. Simmons testified that he finally signed a confession after he was told by officials he named that if he did confess they would let him off with "a light sentence."

FORCED TO HIDE GUN

He related that prior to his knowledge of the killing two white men came to him in the servants' quarters at the rear of the Merritt home and at gun point forced him to hide a gun under a rock nearby the residence. Later told that Merritt had been killed he refused to leave the place and waited for the police.

His confession followed the events of the two days he spent taking alleged beatings from police and being forced to go without food or water, according to his testimony. The all-white jury took the case under consideration at 5:30 o'clock, Thursday afternoon, and returned with a first degree verdict at 8:33 o'clock. Sentence was pronounced by Judge Robert J. Wheeler at 9 P. M. Simmons was defended by Atty. George Trawick.

14c 1947

Legal Sentence(Arkansas)

CHARGED IN ARKANSAS SLAYINGS, 2 DIE IN CHAIR

Chicago Defender-Chicago, Ill.

Dat. 8-16-47

TUCKER PRISON FARM, Ark. — In this state's first double electrocution since 1942, two men met death in the electric chair Friday, one for the murder of a colored night watchman and the other for killing a white woman taxicab driver less than three months ago.

The state's victims were Cubie Lee Johnson, 24, of Little Rock, said to be the first Negro electrocuted in this state for killing one of his own race, and Lawrence Willie Dukes, 31, Forest City, allegedly guilty of attempted assault, robbery and the killing of the white cab operator. Both men met death calmly and refused to make last-minute statements.

Two Murderers Die In Double Execution

The Birmingham News

TUCKER PRISON FARM, Ark., Aug. 9—(AP)—Two Negro murderers died here Friday in Arkansas' first double executiton in five years.

Going to the electric chair before possibly a record crowd of witnesses were Cubie Lee Johnson, 24, Little Rock, slayer of another Negro, and Lawrence Willie Dukes, 31, of Forrest City, who killed and attempted to rape a white woman.

Both died without uttering a word.

Birmingham Ala.

Johnson was put to death first.

A first charge was sent through the electrodes at 5:31 and a second at 5:33.

Sat. 8-9-47

Only one shock was required to kill Dukes.

Among the 40 or more witnesses who crowded into the death chamber was Frank Boyd, of Forrest City. He was the husband of Mrs. Ethel Ellis Boyd, 35-year-old taxicab owner-driver who was stabbed fatally by Dukes. Also there were five of Mrs. Boyd's brothers and about 15 others from Forrest City.

The last time two men were executed the same day in Arkansas was Nov. 20, 1942. Both were Negroes—one sentenced for rape, and another convicted of murder.

Johnson was believed to have been the first man executed in Arkansas for slaying a Negro. He had pleaded guilty of shooting Henry Williams, Negro night watchman at a Little Rock lumber yard, the night of Jan. 10, 1947.

Execution of Johnson was delayed from July 25 after he told authorities he knew who had committed an unsolved murder in Little Rock last January.

Johnson declared that Ira Bell, another Little Rock Negro, had told him of slaying Percy Wallace Hill, St. Louis railway clerk. Bell denied that he had anything to do with Hill's death.

Sat. 8-9-47

14c 1947

Legal Sentence (Court-Martial)

Clemency Asked For GI Sentenced To Hard Labor

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
14c Legal Sentence
Tues 2-18-47

NEW YORK—In a petition for clemency, the legal staff of the NAACP asked the Secrctary of War to reconsider the sentence imposed on former private Walter A. Brown by a general court-martial on August 5, 1946, for shooting a white officer at the front "with intent to kill." Brown is presently serving a sentence of fifteen years at hard labor.

The shooting incident which resulted in Brown's arrest for "assault with intent to kill" occurred in a town on the front line at night, when Brown was leaving a barn and was fired upon by some unknown assailant. Uncertain whether the fire seemingly directed at him was coming from an enemy or one of his own men, Brown shouted, "I'm an American soldier," before returning the fire in the general direction from which the flashes of gunfire continued to come. Injured by one of the shots, Brown then collapsed to discover, upon regaining consciousness, that he was being placed under arrest, charged with the crime of shooting an officer.

District Court Finds Three Guilty Of Murder

Journal And Guide
Norfolk, Va. Sat. 6-7-47

14c

By NNPA News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A District Court jury of six men and six women last Thursday found three men guilty of first degree murder in the slaying of Frank C. Kelly, white government electrician, in an attempted holdup here last March.

The verdict of the jury makes death in the electric chair mandatory under the District Code.

The three men, the oldest of whom is 23-year-old Shirley Harris, showed no emotion as the verdict was read by Jury Foreman Samuel S. Board. The other two convicted are Herbert H. Hall, 18 and Joseph Gray, 19.

A girl friend of Hall's, Ida Brown, 18, who appeared earlier as a government witness burst into loud screams as the verdict was read and fell sobbing to the floor. She was helped from the courtroom.

Kelly was shot as he was on his way home from a Parent-Teacher Association meeting at the Central High School here.

His death was first attributed to natural causes; but fourteen hours later it was discovered that he had been shot.

When policemen determined that Kelly had been shot by a .38-Smith and Wesson revolver, they associated his slaying with a gun of that type which had been stolen in a housebreaking.

A housebreaking suspect told police he had given such a weapon to Gray. Sat. 6-7-47

Gray, Harris and Hall were arrested on March 16 and signed confessions after questioning at Homicide Headquarters, with Gray and Hall naming Harris as the trigger man.

On the witness stand during the trial, however, all three men repudiated their confessions, in whole or part, with Harris and Hall asserting that they had been starved and beaten by police into signing the confession.

Harris claimed he had no knowledge at all of the crime. The other two men claimed Harris had coerced them into going with him for the purpose of selling the gun.

D.C. Jury Finds 3 Guilty of Killing Electrician

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md. Sat. 6-7-47

Death in Electric Chair Mandatory Under Code; Oldest Offender 23, Aides 18 and 19

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — A District Court jury of six men and women last Thursday found three men guilty of first degree murder in the slaying of Frank C. Kelly, white government electrician, in an attempted holdup here last March.

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Girl Friend Screams

A girl friend of Hall's, Ida Brown, 18, who had appeared earlier as a government witness, burst into loud screams and fell sobbing to the floor when she heard the verdict. She was helped from the courtroom.

Kelly was shot on his way home from a Parent-Teacher Association meeting at the Central High School here. Death was first attributed to natural causes but 14 hours later it was discovered that he had been shot.

When policemen determined that the death weapon was a .38-Smith and Wesson revolver, they associated his slaying with a gun of that type which had been stolen when someone broke into a house. Sat. 6-7-47

A suspect told police he had given such a weapon to Gray.

Repudiate Confessions

Later, Gray, Harris and Hall were arrested on March 16 and signed confessions after questioning at Homicide Headquarters. Gray and Hall named Harris as the trigger man.

On the witness stand, however, all three repudiated their confessions, in whole or in part, with Harris and Hall asserting that they had been starved and beaten by police into signing the confessions.

Harris claimed he had no knowledge at all of the crime. The other two men claimed Harris had coerced them into going with him for the purpose of selling the gun.

Alleged Slayer Dies Bravely

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

14c

WASHINGTON—(NNPA)—Boasting that he had been able to sleep until awakened on the eve of his execution, Albert L. Hawkins, 23-year old holdup slayer, spat away a wad of chewing gum last Friday as he sat down in the electric chair in the District jail and calmly paid with his life for the murder here of a grocery clerk in 1946.

Hawkins walked into the death chamber smoking a cigarette and completely composed. The killer had promised to go to his death "like a man" for the murder of Paul Knight, a grocery clerk, whom he shot down in the doorway of chain grocery store on the night of April 13, 1946. Fri. 11-7-47

He lost his last chance to live last Thursday when the United States Supreme Court, in a special session, refused to stay his execution.

Robert I. Miller, his attorney, had asked the court to stay Hawkins' execution and free him on a writ of habeas corpus.

Hawkins had confessed to the murder but later repudiated his confession. Tues. 11-4-47

A CRIMINAL'S BRAVADO:

Lad Relaxes, Smokes Before Electrocution

Afro-american
Baltimore Md.

14c

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — Albert L. Hawkins, 23 completely composed after sleeping until awakened, walked into the death chamber in the jail here, Friday, smoking a cigarette, and spat away a wad of chewing gum before his electrocution for the hold-up murder of a local grocery clerk Paul Knight, on April 13, 1946.

Thus, in bravado fashion, he fulfilled his promise to go to his death "like a man." The U.S. Supreme Court, in a special session last Thursday, refused to stay his execution, after his attorney, Robert I. Miller, petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus. 11-8-47

With Hawkins an hour before he died were the Revs. David O'Connor, Catholic chaplain; Dan Potter, Protestant chaplain; and James L. Pinn, pastor, Good Will Baptist Church, who recorded the event as the 29th execution he has attended. His wife, Beatrice, visited him Thursday.

3 Pastors Witnesses

Hawkins, who first confessed the murder but later repudiated his confession, was captured a month after the holdup when officers were summoned to an A. and P. grocery store in the Southeast, where two flashily-dressed men were reported loitering.

President Saves Pal

Shortly afterward, Hawkins, expensively dressed, and wearing a $400 diamond ring and a $200 wrist watch, was arrested with his accomplice in the holdup and murder of the grocery clerk, Lawrence I. Prout.

Prout was convicted along with Hawkins, but President Truman commuted his sentence to life imprisonment.

Disbarred Lawyer-Killer Declared Insane By Jury

14c
Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON, D. C.— (NNPA) —A District Court lunacy jury, which deliberated only thirty-five minutes, last Wednesday decided that Dan Williams, Jr., 40, charged with fatally shooting two men and wounding two others, is insane. District Judge Edward Curran committed him to St. Elizabeths Hospital.

At Williams' request, each juror on the panel of ten men and two women was polled. The verdict was unamimous. Sat. 11-15-47

After hearing the testimony from several psychiatrists from St. Elizabeths and Gallinger Hospitals, Williams, a disbarred Mississippi lawyer took the stand to declare the story of the slaying was a conspiracy against him and actually never occurred.

The psychiatrists, who included Dr. William Cushard, Dr. Edgar E. Griffin and Dr. Joseph Gilbert, stated that Williams was suffering from a mental disorder involving a persecution complex and illusions of grandeur.

They said Williams, five days after the shooting, "exhibited a complete lack of concern," believed he was one of the "greatest lawyers practicing" nad told them he was sure he had seen the two dead men serving him food at Gallinger Hospital." Sat. 11-15-47

Williams is charged with killing Ray Devenderf, 65, clerk in the office of Courts Committee on Admissions and Grievances, and wounding George W. Dalzell, 60, secretary of the committee, in the Municipal court Building.

Cornered by Cecil A. Claig, 43, a Municipal Court guard, and Police Private Hubert Estes, 51, at the corner of F and Sixth streets northwest Williams killed Private Estes and wounded Mr. Claig. He himself was wounded by Estes.

ALLEGED KILLER
OF NEGRO FREED

March 14, 1947

Press Service for the NAACP

Greensboro, Fla.,--After listening to the Rev. R. C. Britt testify that he saw Keath Bryant, white farmer, shoot Wyart Trueblood, Negro sharecropper, an all-white Grand Jury on March 3 failed to indict Bryant after deliberating for an hour and a half. Bryant was therefore discharged. New York, N.Y. 3-14-47

The NAACP legal department on January 31 had urged Attorney General Tom Watson of Florida to open an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the brutal killing of a Negro sharecropper who was shot in the head and beaten to death with an iron wrecking bar last November as his two terrified children stood by.

The alleged murder was said to have occurred on the Bryant farm near Greensboro, Fla., when the victim, a sharecropper on the Bryant farm who owned his own farm implements and was free of debt, went to the syrup mill to remove the part which was rightfully his. It was said that Ben Bryant and his son Keath forbade Trueblood to remove his cans of syrup. The sharecropper refused to give up the syrup, whereupon Keath Bryant shot him through the head with a 32-caliber pistol. Trueblood staggered and Ben Bryant beat the wounded man with an iron wrecking bar, even after it was obvious that he was dead.

Circuit Court Jury Convicts Negro of First Degree Murder

Times Union
Jacksonville, Fla.

A Circuit Court jury yesterday found Oscar Green, negro, guilty of murder in the first degree but recommended mercy, thus making a life sentence mandatory.

The trial, which began Monday, was one of the longest of its kind in recent years. During the six days it lasted, the jury was in the courtroom only intermittently, being recessed while attorneys argued the unusual points of law involved in the case.

The State's identification of the corpus delicti, its contention of the cause of death, and its identification of the murder weapon were challenged, while the State argued at length against the introduction by the defense, of testimony relative to previous altercations between the defendant and the murdered man.

Green was accused of having shot Frank Butler, negro, to death on Saturday afternoon, April 5, after a morning quarrel in which Green allegedly was badly beaten. In full view of scores of witnesses, Green later that day encountered Butler and shot him down.

The jury was charged by Circuit Judge Claude Ogilvie at 2 P. M. yesterday and brought in its verdict after two hours of deliberation.

The case was prosecuted by Nathan Schevitz, assistant State Attorney, while Walter Arnold, former assistant County Solicitor, represented the defendant.

Sentence will not be passed until the court rules upon motion for a new trial. Sun 5-25-47

'They're Almost Sixteen!'

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

WHAT does a sixteen year old boy think of as they strap him into an electric chair to die?

Two Negro boys are scheduled to die that way down in Mississippi. Gov. Wright of the state, a close friend of Bilbo, angrily denies that they are fourteen years old. "I have spoken to them myself," he explains. "They are closer to sixteen." Wed. 6-15-47

In Louisiana, a Negro boy, Willie Jackson, was dragged to the electric chair last May 3. He is 17 years old. The guards had to fight to strap him in. The current was turned on. But it didn't work for some reason. The august Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that Willie Jackson must be strapped in again to die. They will make sure this time.

The murder of Negro boys goes on all the time. It is said that they "committed murder."

One can judge how much truth there is in these charges from the long list of frame-up, provocations and crimes committed against Negro children—for that is all they are, in fact. It was also said that the innocent Scottsboro boys "committed rape."

Such cases as these recent ones lift the cover on the infamous lynch system, whether it be legal or illegal lynching. It is against this that decent Americans must fight.

Negroes Getting Full Extent of Law For Killing Blacks

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

CHICAGO, — (ANP) — Evidence that southern white-supremacy justice has taken a progressive about-face on the question of Negroes killing Negroes is revealed in the recent disposition of three murder cases in South Carolina, Mississippi and Arkansas. Two of the slayers have been executed and the third now awaits death. Sat. 5-17-47

In Columbia, S. C., Freddie Jones, a 19-year-old World War II veteran, died in the electric chair a fortnight ago for the mutilation death of Gladys Smith Woods, a resident of Chester county. Jones brutally stabbed Miss Woods to death, he admitted.

Mississippi justice, which formerly characterized the south's antequated slave system, doomed Walton Ratcliff, 25-year-old slayer of his father-in-law, to death. He paid for the crime at Decatur, Miss., but before he died advised his pals "to stay out of trouble."

Cubie Lee Johnson faces the electric chair in Little Rock for the robbery-murder of an aged Negro watchman. During his trial last week, a white defense lawyer. Atty. Ross J. Robley, pleaded for his client's life by asking the all-white jury not to set a precedent by sending a Negro to the electric chair for killing another Negro, explaining that it had never happened in Pulaski county.

The aged Williams, employed at the Monarch Mill and Lumber company, was found shot to death and robbed on the company's property on Jan. 10. Police investigation revealed that Johnson struck Williams down with a brick, then robbed him of a small sum of money and a revolver. The nightwatchman regained consciousness and recognizing his assailant, awrned him he was going to call police. Johnson then fired a shot into the back of his prostrate victim's head. Sat. 5-17-47

Now Comes The Electric Chair

Sun.
Atlanta, Ga. Daily World, 6-15-47

A year ago The Atlanta Daily World had the good fortune to commend the action of Judge Walter C. Hendrix in directing an all-while jury to return the death sentence for a Negro who had been charged with the slaying of another Negro, who was shot as he attempted to climb over a fence to safety. The speed with which the case was handled and the certainty of the punishment for the crime, that we could not resist the temptation to express what we knew to be the heart-warming satisfaction of all Negroes at the verdict.

Now comes another such verdict, also returned by an all-white jury in Judge Bond Almand's court last Friday in the case of Sam Whitt, youthful Negro who was charged with slaying his estranged wife last March 5. Both of these verdicts are deserving of the highest praise from Negro and white Atlantans, acquainted with the problems created by the leniency shown to Negroes who decimate each others lives without either reason or rhyme, only to be given very light or no sentence at all by enforcement officers. Under such conditions, life among Negroes becomes cheap and law and order in the Negro community break down.

To date, there are 42 known homicides among Negroes for the first six months of the year. This does not include the number of slayings which took place in the County. Neither does it take into account the continuous flow of stabbing and attack cases from which the victims recover sooner or later. Sun. 6-15-47

We take this opportunity to commend Judge Almand as well as the all-white jury. Their action is bound to result in a deeper appreciation by Negro slayers of each others' lives and it will also instill greater confidence in the law by Negroes generally. Let's have more of this sort of justice.

New Trend in Justice

Dixie Courts Begin To Doom Race Killers

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 5-17-47

By LUTHER A. TOWNSLEY

CHICAGO —(ANP)— Evidence that Southern white-supremacy justice has taken a progressive about-face on the question of Negroes killing Negroes is revealed in the recent disposition of three murder cases in South Carolina, Mississippi and Arkansas. Two of the slayers have been executed and the third now awaits death. 5-17-47

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KILLED FATHER-IN-LAW

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SERVED THREE TERMS

The slayer had served three prison terms, two for the theft of automobiles and the third for grand larceny. No date has been set for his execution. Sat. 5-17-47

These convictions and executions mark a definite about-face of Southern white-supremacy justice, which has consistently followed the attitude of the slave system that Negroes could wantonly kill Negroes, but no white men.

Constitution, Atlanta, Ga. Thu. 11-6-47

Associated Press Photo

FORMER WARDEN, GUARDS ACQUITTED—Former Warden H. G. Worthy (second from left) shakes hands with his attorney, Vance Mitchell, in Brunswick, Nov. 4, after Worthy and four former guards at Glynn County work camp were acquitted by a Federal Court jury of charges they killed eight Negro convicts without cause in an outbreak at the camp last July 11. Left to right, Guy McNabb, former guard; Worthy; Mitchell; former Guards T. C. Lawler and J. L. Holmes. The jury deliberated eight minutes. The fourth acquitted guard, Remer Bazemore, is not in the picture.

Federal Jury Frees Warden, Guards In Convict Slaying

Ala. Wed.

~~Montgomery Advertiser~~

BRUNSWICK, GA., Nov. 4.—(AP)—A federal court jury deliberated for eight minutes today and then freed a former Georgia prison camp warden and four of his guards of charges that they killed eight Negro convicts last July without cause. Advertiser

Hearing of the evidence in the case took six days.

State agencies, including a special committee of the legislature, previously had exonerated the warden, H. G. Worthy, and the guards. 11-5-47

Today's verdict was received without demonstration from spectators who packed the small trial room in the Glynn County courthouse. Presiding Judge Frank M. Scarlett had warned against any outcry.

Earlier Defense Attorney Vance Mitchell, in summing up his case, asked the jury "Are we here to protect so-called civil rights of convicts who were guilty of murder, rape, sodomy and every other crime, or are we here to protect civil rights of the men who were watching over them?"

Worthy and the guards were accused under the federal civil rights statutes of unnecessarily depriving the convicts of their lives. Wednesday

District Attorney H. Saxton Daniel in summing up his case said shame should be brought on the State of Georgia when guards can shoot down prisoners, lay them on tiles in the prison courtyard and then be allowed to go free. Wednesday

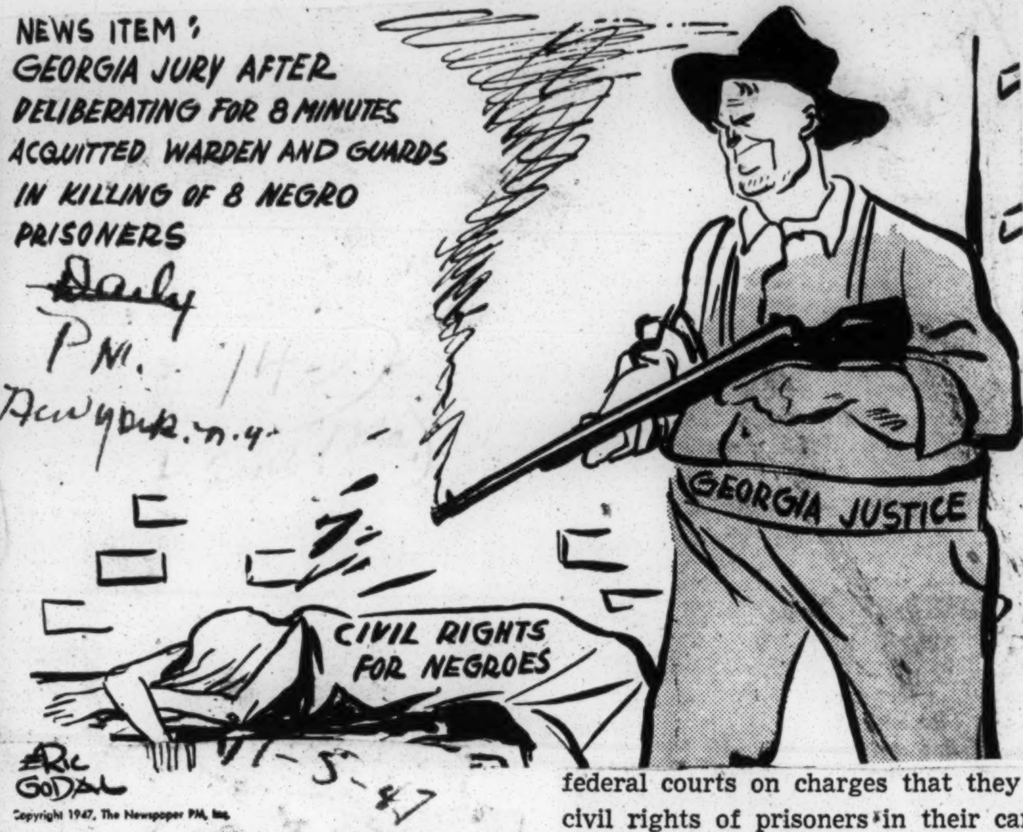
The trial brought conflicting stories of the slayings at a state highway prison camp in Glynn County near here. Worthy and the guards said a mass escape attempt necessitated the shooting.

Survivors of the 27 Negro convicts who were assembled in the prison yard after refusing to work on a road detail said there was no escape attempt.

They said they refused to work because guards ordered them into a snake infested ditch. Five of the survivors were wounded.

The alleged ring leader of the convicts, Willie Bell, testified that the warden had been drinking prior to the shooting, and called him from the assembled convicts with the threat "I'm going to kill you." Alabama.

The warden and other witnesses denied this, saying that Bell lunged at the warden, causing the latter to open fire. Bell was wounded in the hip. Worthy said the other prisoners broke and ran after he fired at Bell. Some of the guards testified the prisoners ran toward them.



NEWS ITEM: GEORGIA JURY AFTER DELIBERATING FOR 8 MINUTES ACQUITTED WARDEN AND GUARDS IN KILLING OF 8 NEGRO PRISONERS
GEORGIA JUSTICE
CIVIL RIGHTS FOR NEGROES
ERIC GODAL

~~Daily~~ PM. New York. N.Y.

11-5-47

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white juries in the South continue to give about a minute to a Negro life. The victory to be won is inside the minds of the whites. Put an end to the segregation of Negroes in the essentials of life and you begin to put an end to their classification as expendables in the thinking of the whites.

Eight Lives—Eight Minutes: It took eight minutes for a Federal court jury in Georgia to free the prison guards who killed eight Negro convicts—one minute for brushing aside each life that was snuffed out. (*News story on Page 6.*) The acquittal comes as an ironic footnote to the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, which discussed this very case and recommended a strengthening of the Federal Civil Rights statutes. Yet the case illustrates that more is required than a change in the statutes—and the Committee agrees on this point.

Another Lesson

Record

Georgia has supplied another demonstration of how a federal anti-lynching law or any federal force bill would work in the acquittal by a jury of the former warden and four former guards at the Glynn county convict camp, tried in the federal courts on charges that they violated the civil rights of prisoners in their care by killing eight of them last July 11.

The five men—the warden and the four guards—had been previously absolved of blame for the killing by a coroner's jury; a Glynn county grand jury and a special investigating committee of the Georgia legislature. Columbia, S.C.

The verdict at Brunswick was, therefore, inevitable. In the first place there was a reason to doubt that the slayings were not justified. The explanation of the former prison officials was that the prisoners, a recalcitrant lot, has conspired to take over the prison camp in order to escape and one of the prisoners lunged at the warden, they testified, before he opened fire. Fri. 11-7-47

But if the case against the five had been much stronger than it was, the verdict would have still been the same. The proceeding was an attempt on the part of the federal government to convict in the federal courts men who had been absolved of blame by the state.

A Disgrace To The State

14C L. Sent. (Ga.)

After testimony for over a week at Brunswick, a Federal Jury, consisting of 12 white men, after only about 13 minutes' deliberation, has decided that Warden H. B. Worthy and four white guards were justified in riddling with gunshots, the bodies of 8 convicts last July 11. 11-5-47

We have followed the case closely and we are at a loss to understand how much a verdict could be reached. However, after we realize how the grand juries are selected in the South and what important part the question of race plays in practically every type of case where there is a serious conflict of interest between members of the two racial groups, we can partially understand what was the dominant and controlling force with the all-white jury. Wed.

When we read the testimony credited to H. L. Wicks, a bookkeeper at the camp, near the end of the trial to the effect that on the fatal afternoon the Negro convicts are alleged to have threatened the guards and "to get some white women before dark," we felt the verdict of not guilty would be forthcoming as certain it did. 11-5-47

We have no complaint with the theory and principle of American legal procedure, but we strongly dissent from the practice of denying our race a fair proportion of representation on both the grandand petit juries, regradless whether Negroes are defendants, plaintiffs or victims, as in the Brunswick massacre. ATLANTA Daily WORld

This Brunswick verdict is a disgrace to our state and and nation. Such verdicts will seriously and eventually undermine our ideals of democracy. Ga. Wed.

To get at correcting this jury situation effectively we are convinced we must put most of our hope on our political strength. We believe as we grow in our voting powers in the selection of city, county and state officials, we will see an improvement in this end. Our one main objective must be to get every eligible Negro as a voter.

GA. BUTCHERS FREED:

14C L. Sent. (Ga.)

U. S. Jury Justifies Jail Pogrom Quickly

Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 11-15-47

By DOUGLASS HALL

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—After deliberating just eight minutes on testimony presented through six-and-a-half days, a Federal grand jury acquitted H. G. Worthy, former warden, and four former guards at the Glynn County convict camp on charges of violating the civil rights of eight prisoners shot to death last July 11.

Worthy and the former guards had been cleared previously of blame for the massacre which shocked the nation, by a coroner's jury, a Glynn County grand jury and an investigating committee of the Georgia legislature.

Convicts 'Humans,' Jury Told

District Attorney J. Saxton Daniel told the jury:

"Although these men were black, they were human and had a right to live. They have a soul like you and I, and no one had a right to place an arm of steel around them and shoot them down like cattle.

"Yes, we know they are convicts, but under Georgia law they had a right to protect themselves.

Bell's 'Fear' Defended

"Willie Bell did not have to come out of that line if he had reason to believe that Warden Worthy would beat him with those brand-new pick handles."

The district attorney added that Georgia should be ashamed when it gets to the place where guards can shoot prisoners down and get away with it.

Calls Break Justifiable

Greene B. Everitt, assistant district attorney, told the jurymen that the Federal courtroom was no place for race prejudice, that they must decide "whether a genuine attempt to escape or attack the guards was made before Warden Worthy started shooting at the prisoners.

He pointed out that none of the 27 prisoners standing in a huddle made a break until Warden Worthy fired at one, and that the prisoners "couldn't stand there in that huddle with bullets coming at them." Sat. 11-15-47

Defense Spews Racism

Defense Attorney Vance Mitchell, who is also a police magistrate, blamed "sob sisters" and the pink-breasted Communists" for the prioners' attitude at the camp on the day of the murders.

He said the men demonstrated because they felt they would gain their freedom by appealing to the sympathy of the sob sisters.

"Willie Bell," he shouted, "who is what is known around prisons as a 'jail lawyer,' conspired to take away the civil rights of the warden.

Killers Praised

"Are we here to protect the so-called civil rights of convicts who are guilty of murder, rape, sodomy and every other crime, or are we here to protect the civil rights of the men who are watching over them?" Mitchell thundered.

"These men would have been lax in their duty if they had let these men go that day to rape the female members of your family," he declared. Sat. 11-15-47

Willie Bell, named as ringleader by the warden, testified that the warden had beaten him before, killed another prisoner, Harvey Lewis, and ordered him to leave the group because, "I am going to kill you."

Other prisoners testified to being fired on with tommy guns, and asserted that they were not armed with the iron rods presented by the defense as evidence, but that the rods "were used to strike the dinner bell."

Warden Worthy admitted being cruel to the prisoners and of having pick handles "for protection." He said the men threatened to kill him and that Bell made a lunge at him.

Two Doomed In Americus Slaying Of Nightwatchman

14C L. Sent. (Ga.)

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

Wed. 12-3-47

AMERICUS, Ga.— (SNS)— LeRoy Scrutchins and Joe Porter were sentenced to die in the electric chair on January 2 for the Halloween slaying here of Perry Cannon, aged white night watchman.

An all-white jury deliberated six minutes on a verdict of guilty without recommendation for mercy. Shortly afterwards, Judge William M. Harper passed the sentence.

Wed. Dec 3-9-47

The court ordered Scrutchins and Porter transferred to the Bibb County Jail at Macon until time for their transfer to Tattnall prison.

In unsworn statements made during the trial, the defendants accused each other of delivering the blows which caused the death of the nightwatchman. The state accused them of hatching up the plot to kill the victim in a local cafe.

Slayer Suspect Of White Youth Is Exonerated

Daily World

14C L. Sent. (Ga.)

Atlanta Ga.

Fulton Superior Judge E. E. Pomeroy directed a jury Thursday to return a verdict of not guilty for R. B. Grier, of 1093 Hubbard St., S. W., who was being tried for the August 17 slaying of an 18-year-old white youth, J. L. Bradley.

The directed verdict was ordered after several witnesses testified that they did not see the defendant stab the youth.

COMPANION CONVICTED

Mary Baker, 18, an alleged conspirator in the fatal stabbing was previously sentenced to life imprisonment. It was claimed that Grier was her companion when she engaged in an altercation with the white youth as he passed through the Edgewood Ave.,-Bell Street vicinity. Miss Baker at her trial admitted stabbing the youth in the side but accused Grier of striking the fatal blow that severed Bradley's jugular vein.

When brought before the grand jury, both Miss Baker and Grier were indicted for the murder.

City Detective J. E. Helms who investigated the case testified that Grier never admitted stabbing the youth. He admitted being in the company with Miss Baker but stated only she was involved in the altercation. Sat. 12.6.47

After his testimony, Defense Attorney Sam McKenzie conferred with Asst Sol. James Dorsey and it was agreed that the judge direct the jury to find Grier not guilty.

OVER A CIGARETTE

In Miss Baker's trial it was brought out that Bradley and another white youth asked the couple if they had a cigarette. Grier is said to have tendered the youth a cigarette when Miss Baker intervened and knocked it from his hand. When Bradley walked away from the couple, Miss Baker is said to have caught him and when he attempted to break loose from her grasp, stabbed him.

Bradley ran to Hanley's Funeral Parlor on Bell St., and Mr. Hanley provided an ambulance to take him to Grady where he was pronounced dead.

Troopers Speed Condemned Slayer From Packed Franklin Courthouse

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 3-26-47

14c L. Sent. (Geo)

By **ALBERT RILEY,**
Constitution Staff Writer.

CARNESVILLE, March 25—Twenty State Troopers whisked Quiller Daniel away from the crowded Franklin County courthouse here Tuesday 10 minutes after the lanky Negro farmhand was convicted and sentenced to die for the murder of Mrs. Marilyn Webb near Royston last Fall.

Fully a thousand people crowded the little courthouse for the trial of the Negro accused of killing Mrs. Webb and Willie A. (Buck) Carnes, who were shot to death in their parked car on a lonely side road in the hills on the night of Nov. 14.

The spectators listened in tense silence but made no disturbance as the jury returned its verdict of guilty, and Judge Boyd Sloan sentenced Daniel to die in the electric chair May 2.

Quickly the Troopers surrounded the prisoner, escorted him out of the courthouse and sped him away in one of seven patrol cars headed toward Lavonia. Presumably the Negro was returned to Fulton Tower in Atlanta where he had been held for safekeeping pending trial.

Daniel, who two days after the crime signed a confession that he shot Mrs. Webb and Carnes to death, was tried Tuesday only for Mrs. Webb's murder. He pleaded innocent to the charge, but described the shooting as he took the stand in his own defense and sought to convince the jury the killings were not pre-meditated and that he shot in self-defense.

In his rambling statement, however, he told of watching the movements of Carnes and Mrs. Webb in Royston on the night of the crime and following them to their trysting place, carrying a shotgun with him. Wed. 3-26-47

He said that when he came upon the couple, Carnes started to get out of the car but he warned the white man not to do so. When Carnes reached under the seat of the car, "I started shooting," Daniel said. The Negro added, "I don't know how many times I shot."

The Negro's signed confession, the murder weapon, shells fired from it, and photographs of the victims were introduced at the trial which reuired only an hour and a half for completion.

Sheriff Tom Watson Andrews, of Franklin County; Sheriff Carey Carter, of Hart County, and other officers who took part in the investigation, were called to the stand along with Capt. Ben Seabrook, of the Atlanta Police Department, who obtained the confession from Daniel. 3-26-47

Dr. Herman Jones, Oglethorpe University toxicologist, firearms expert and crime investigator, testified the shells introduced as evidence had been fired from Daniel's gun and were apparently the shells that killed Carnes and Mrs. Webb.

Solicitor R. Howard Gordon questioned the witnesses and none of them was cross-examined by W. L. Haley and Homer Gaines, defense counsel appointed by Judge Sloan.

The jury deliberated less than 45 minutes before returning the verdict, and two and a half hours after the trial began Daniel had been convicted, sentenced and sped away from the court house.

The overflowing courtroom on the second floor of the little brick and stone building here in the Blue Ridge foothills was filled mostly with men, many of them apparently ex-service men from the khaki clothes and blue jeans in evidence. There were a few women among the spectators, however. The Constitution

Several times the courtroom buzzed with talk but promptly quieted down on orders from the judge and Sheriff Andrews.

Eleven Troopers were inside, others outside the building. The entire detail of a score of Patrolmen was in charge of Lt. G. H. Standard. Atlanta

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Royston Slayer Is Electrocuted

Constitution

REIDSVILLE, May 2 — (AP) — Quiller Daniell, Royston, Negro who was convicted of slaying a white man and woman, was electrocuted at the State Prison here Friday. Sat 5-3-47

Daniell was convicted of killing Willie A. Carnes and Mrs. Marilyn Webb on a lonely side road near Royston last November. He pleaded self-defense at his trial. Atlanta, Ga.

Man Sentenced To Life On Murder Charge Here

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Amid a jam-packed courtroom in Fulton County Superior court Wednesday, Richard Wynn, 43, of 362 McDaniel Street, was tried and found guilty of the bludgeon-murder of Mrs. Mandy Smith, 38, of 286 Chapel Street, who was found together with her 14-year-old daughter, Louise "Toota", in a pool of blood on the morning of April 6. The jury, after deliberating for one hour and twenty-five minutes, returned its verdict of guilty with a recommendation of mercy, which carries with it a sentence of life imprisonment. Thurs. 5-15-47

The first three witneses called testified that they all saw the defendant near the scene of the crime on the night it was committed with an axe handle in his hand.

The next witness, Gus Wynn, brother of the defendant, said that his brother had come to his house on that night with an axe handle in his possession trying to borrow some money. He had an axe handle in his hand at the time, said the brother, and told me he was going to leave town. I took the handle from him, the witness said.

Mrs. Reba Wynn, wife of Gus Wynn, confirmed her husband's testimony, saying further that she and the defendant had an argument over the money he wanted to borrow.

Mrs. Annie Floyd, with whom the victim lived, told the jury that Richard Wynn had come to her house on three occasions that night and she refused to admit him on his third arrival. Asked if she saw the defendant with an axe handle on any of the occasions, Mrs. Foyd replied, "No".

In giving the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the victim, Mrs. Floyd stated that when she awoke on the morning of April 6 she heard someone groaning in the victim's room and entered to investigate. To her amazement, said Mrs. Floyd, she saw "Toota" lying on the floor "bleeding like a hog" and Mrs. Smith in the bed in a pool of blood. She left the room to seek aid, said Mrs. Floyd. Thurs. 5-15-47

It was brought out in the testimony of the physician to the coroner that Mrs. Smith had sustained three skull fractures and other bruises about the head, which were attributed to the cause of death. The physician further testified that he observed some stains on the axe handle said to have been used in the slaying. Under cross examination he stated that he did not know whether the stains were of human or animal blood as no analysis was made.

Very little information was given by the daughter of the deceased, for all she remembered, she said, was that she had gone to bed that night and fallen asleep. The next thing she remembered, continued the young girl, was awaking in the hospital.

An officer who investigated the case stated that when Wynn arrived at the hospital with the victims, he was wearing an overcoat which had evidence of blood stains. Upon closer examination of Wynn, said the officer, he uncovered some blood stains on the trousers which Wynn was wearing under coveralls.

All witnesses at the scene of the discovery stated that when the victims were placed in the ambulance, Wynn assisted by carrying "Toota" in his arms.

The defendant denied the accusation, saying that he got the handle from a person called "R. B.", who was in the vicinity of the scene.

Prosecutor Dorsey in summing up the state's case termed the crime a "horrible and brutal murder," saying further that even though the evidence was circumstantial and no one saw Wynn strike the victims, he was the only person seen in that vicinity with an axe handle. He charged the jury to show no mercy for the defendant if they believed him to be guilty.

The defense attorney, who was appointed by the state, assured the jury that it was their duty to pass a conviction only when the defendant was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, warning them further that when they took the oath they pledged themselves not to guess at the guilt of his defendant. He stressed the point that several persons were in the vicinity at the time and that on each occasion the defendant came to the victim's house, Mrs. Floyd, the landlady, did not see him with an axe handle.

20-Year Term Neted Slayer Of Husband

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World
Thur. 5-8-47

Mrs. Willie Johnson received the maximum term for voluntary manslaughter Tuesday, after a jury in Fulton Superior Court had found her guilty in the April 5 butcher knife killing of her husband, J. C. Johnson. ~~Sat.~~ Thur. 5-8-47

The all-white jury deliberated about one hour to return the verdict, 20 years in prison, despite an impassioned plea by the state prosecution, charging the slaying was done in cold blood. Mrs. Johnson claimed self-defense. A gleaming 12-inch stainless steel knife, said to be the death weapon, was exhibited.

The defense attorney declared that the deceased provoked the slaying by cursing, threatening and violence to the defendant, stating further that he hurled an object through the window of her house. In an effort to protect herself, said the defense, the defendant secured a knife from the kitchen and stabbed him.

The defendant's attorney also presented two white persons who swore that the deceased was a violent character. In summing up his argument defense counsel implored the jurors that had they been in a similar situation as his defendant they would have done the same. He urged a verdict of not guilty.

RETURNING HOME Thur. 5-8-47

The state prosecutor asserted that J. C. Johnson, the deceased, was returning to his home to secure his belongings as he and his wife had had a previous squabble. When he arrived, said the prosecutor, his wife came up to him endearingly saying "ain't you my husband" and plunged the knife into his body.

Witnesses testified that after the defendant had approached the deceased in an endearing manner and stabbed him she made the following remarks: "This is my d— husband and it's nobody's business;" "I intended to kill you last summer;" "I'll make time for this!" and "If you come up here I'll kill you too."

Negro Sentenced

Atlanta Daily World
Thur. 5-8-47

When the jury pronounced its verdict, the defendant who was sitting with her mother, showed no signs of woe, but continued to busily smack her chewing gum and throw an occasional wave to her friends in the courtroom.

When the defense introduced a scarred arm of the defendant, alleging that the victim had administered it, the prosecution introduced a witness who stated that another man had cut her while her husband was in the army.

A Year On Each Of Four Counts

Atlanta, Ga.

In Fulton County Criminal court Monday, Robert L. Smith, a postal employe, was sentenced by Judge John McClelland to four years imprisonment for performing a natural function. Tues. 6-7-47

Smith, who delivered mail in the white-populated Buckhead section, was accused on four counts of having publicly and indecently exposed himself in a wooded area in that section. He was assigned to deliver mail in this section which afforded no toilet facilities to colored transients. He, therefore, sought this desolate wooded-spot to relieve himself.

On two or three occasions he is alleged to have been seen by some of the white neighbors who preferred charges against him.

Smith's testimony was that he was a faithful employe of the government and always did his best to carry out his duty. He admitted that he had frequented the spot mentioned in the charges, but said that he had no other faciliites and sought this particular spot for he considered it secluded. It was not his intent to commit an act of immorality, said Smith. He also pointed out that he had no previous record.

When County officers questioned him about the matter, said Smith, they furiously beat him over the head in an effort to make him plead guilty. Tues. 6-7-47

The defense attorney in summing up his case corrorborated Smith's testimony and appealed to the jury to consider the extinuating circumstances in the case, stressing the fact that the man was on duty at the time and committed a natural function. He implored the jury to place themselves in his defendant's place, but inferred that this was almost impossible for they always had facilities wherever they went. This is not so with the colored man, declared the defense.

When the jury returned its verdict guilty, leaving the imposition of sentence with Judge McClelland he flatly pronounced the limit, 12 months on each count, a total of four years.

19-Year-Old Youth Dies In Electric Chair At Tattnall

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Wed. 7-2-47

Convicted for the robbery-slaying of his white employer, O. D Grooms, in May 1946, 19-year old Herbert Lee Reddick was electrocuted Monday at Tattnall Prison.

In the trial of the youth the state charged that he killed Grooms, a produce dealer, on a roadside near McRae, Ga. while the two were en route from Macon to Florida. Reddick is said to have hid the victim's truck and escaped with $14,000.

Arrested in Florida the youth is said to have had in his possession $9,000 of the stolen money.

Following the trial in Bibb County both the State Supreme Court and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles refused to intervene in the case. Wed. 7-2-47

What's That?

Memphis, Tenn. World

Negro Gets Chair In Another's Slaying!

Tues. 6-17-47

ATLANTA Ga., — (SNS) —

Death in the electric chair was the sentence pronounced by Judge Bond Almand in Fulton County Superior court Friday after a jury had found Sam Whitt, a youthful Negro, guilty of shooting to death his estranged wife, Margaret Whitt, last March 5.

The jury which found the defendant, Whitt, guilty of murder in the first degree deliberated for just 30 minutes before returning its verdict.

The state charged that Whitt on the night of the murder went to see his wife and baby who were living with the wife's mother and shot her down in cold blood as the baby lay only a few feet away. Mrs. Whitt was shot in the head, neck and thigh.

The trial which began Thursday afternoon lasted until late Friday as witness after witness took the stand to testify of the state. No witnesses appeared for the defendant.

B. G. Lewis Jr., brother of the deceased, testified that Whitt came to the house and talked with Margaret. He excused himself for a few minutes, said Lewis Jr., and while he was out he heard a volley of shots. He ran back into the room only to find that his sister had been shot to death, said the brother. Whitt had fled, he said. Tues. 6-17-47

The mother and father of the victim, who were at the house at the time of the slaying said that they were out of the room when the shots were fired. They, too, said that when they entered the room they found their daughter, Margaret, lying on the floor with three bullets in her body.

TESTIMONY OFFERED

Tommy Lee Pittman said that he was across the street from the house when he saw Sam Whitt fire at his wife. After she slumped, he fired two more shots into the helpless victim, said Pittman.

Willie Caldwell, one of the witnesses who appeared, said that he was going to kill his mother-in-law and wife.

Whitt's testimony claimed that B. G. Lewis, Jr., came into the room where he and his wife were and drew a shot gun on him. He fired at Lewis Jr. in self defense, said Whitt. When he fired, however, continued firing in the excitement. Whitt also said that his wife's mother had poisoned her mind against him.

Lewis Jr., denied that had drawn a shotgun on the defendant.

Judge J. R. Pahham who prosecuted for the state consistently called on the jurors for the death penalty. "Show the defendant the the same mercy he shawed his wife." shouted the judge as he paraded before the jurors." Whitt armed himself to kill before he reached the house. He had said that he was going to kill.

Judge Parham evoked a vivid description of the slaying as he amimated the alleged acts of Whitt.

VEHMENT ATTACK

"After Whitt pumped the first shot was into his wife, the then pumped two more into her dying body as she sat slumped on the arm of the chair," declared Mr. Parham "If you are going to grant this cold blood murder mercy, what are you going to base it on?"

The voice of the judge calling for the death penalty rang throughout the corridors, as tight-lipped, eager spectator leaned forward to catch every word that left his lips.

Judge Parham termed the murderer as "brutal, ruthless and cold-blooded."

Two previous records were introduced into the trial showing that Whitt had once been convicted of lottery and had received a 12 months suspended sentence for abandoning his wife and baby.

Tues. 6-17-47

The defense attorney, Gordon Smith, had little evidence in his favor to work with. He attempted, however, to show where it was possible for the brother-in-law to draw a shotgun on the defendant, and that when he defendant fired at the brther-in-law the wife jumped between them and received the shots. In the lingering moments of the trial he pleaded that the jury give his defendant some consideration by giving him a few years in prison. His appeal apparently was drowned in the vehement attack of the prosecutor.

When Judge Almand asked Mr. Smith if he had any statement to make relatives to jury's decision, Mr. Gordon replied, "The jury has spoken your honor.

Previously on April 10, a jury had tried the case and it was declared a mistrial when ten of the jurors favored the death penalty and two favored life-imprisonment.

20-YEAR TERM METED REDDING FOR SLAYING

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Thurs. 6-12-47

Wednesday morning in Fulton County Superior court Judge Almand charged the jury which had the day before witnessed the sharp debate in the murder trial of Mccrory Redding, 21-year-old youth who on April 20 stabbed to death his semi-invalid father-in-law, Virgil Thomas.

The jury retired at 9:45 a. m. and returned four hours and fifteen minutes later at 2 p. m. with a verdict of guilty, fixing Redding's sentence at 20 years.

The chief witness for the state was the victim's widow, Mrs. Rosa Thomas, who testified that on April 20 Redding beat her about the face and pushed her 57-year-old husband on a bed and stabbed him to death with a dirk.

After the slaying Redding fled the scene and was later picked up by officers. Thurs. 6-12-47

His story was that Mrs. Thomas had struck him with a piece of stove wood while he held his three-months old baby in his arms. She barely missed striking the baby, said Redding. During this time, declared Redding, Virgil Thomas had entered his room with an axe in his hand. It was then he grabbed his dirk and stabbed Thomas in defense of himself and baby.

POINT AT ISSUE

The element that stood out strongly in the case was whether the father-in-law picked up the axe to protect himself from assault or if he picked it up to assault the defendant. Thurs. 6-12-47

The defense declared that the victim prompted the slaying by attempting to assault Redding with the axe, while the state asserted that the feebled old man resorted to the axe in an effort to protect himself.

It is not known whether the sympathy of Redding's wife was for him or her mother, however, it was noted that she and the baby remained throughout the trial at the defense table with her husband. Not once was she seen talking to her mother.

During the trial both the defense and prosecuting attorney showed masterful performances as they cited numerous points of law, evoked vivid picturization of the slaying and even quoted poetry and passages of scripture. Their voices were heard in every crevice of th courtroom as each shouted vehemently that justice must be done.

The presiding judge had no rest raised at every turn objections were raised and either overuled or sustained.

Thurs. 6-12-47

The tial which ran into two days consumed a total of eight-and-a-half hours. Judge J. R. Parham prosecuted for the state, while Atty. Reuben Garland was the defending attorney.

Carroll Youth Doomed To Chair In Slaying Case

~~Atlanta~~

Constitution - Atlanta, Ga

Fri. 7-25-47

CARROLLTON, July 24—(UP)

In a crowded coutroom guarded by State Troopers armed with guns and tear gas, an accused Negro murderer was convicted Thursday of slaying a white man and sentenced to death. The all-white, 12-man jury deliberated six minutes.

Sixteen State Patrol cars guarded streets outside the white marble courthouse during the trial. They were under orders to prevent violence in this small town where the Negro convicted Thursday had been saved from a lynch mob on the night of June 30 Fri-7-25-

Eddie Brown, the 22-year-old Negro, wrung his hands as he stood before Superior Judge Samuel J. Boykin. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Tattnall State Prison on Aug. 15. Fri-7-25-47

Brown's court-appointed attorneys — including Tom Herndon, the Judge's nephew — announced they would appeal for a new trial. The appeal will be made on grounds that an alleged confession read during the trial was inadmissible because it was taken "under duress." Fri-7-25-47

The Negro was charged with the shotgun slaying of David A. Boyd, 28-year-old white farmer who was shot in the back while fishing on the Tallapoosa River, near Carrollton.

GEORGIA

All O.K.

Warden H. G. Worthy and the four guards who had killed eight Negro convicts at Georgia's State Highway Camp No. 18 (TIME, July 21) were cleared last week by a special grand jury of 23 Georgians. The jury decided that Warden Worthy and his men had acted within the state law, which allows the shooting of escaping prisoners. Warden Worthy was not "half-drunk" at the time, as Convict Willie Bell testified. The prisoners were the most "undisciplined" in the state. Said the jury: "This trouble would not have happened had the prisoners been-

holders, (TIME, March 31). He directed

Woman, Charged With Death Of 13-Year-Old, Gets Life

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World Wed. 3-19-47

BY JOEL W. SMITH

Mrs. Ida Mae Brown, of the rear 343 Markham Street S. W. was convicted on a charge of murder in connection with the death of Andy Turner, 13-year old youngster, Thursday, in Fulton County Superior Court. In returning the verdict the jury recommended mercy, so the defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge J. L. Renfroe who presided over the trial.

An overflow crowd packed the courtroom to hear the dramatic proceedings and to get a first hand account of the circumstances surrounding the mysterious death of the youngster, whose nude body was found in the Rear of 670 Beckwith Street, S. W. on the morning of February 4. The body was partially covered by a pair of overalls and a plaid shirt, when discovered by a man while enroute to work.

OBJECTIONS OVER-RULED

As the trial got underway, Attorney Russell G. Turner, counsel for the defendant objected to references to previous beatings, and asked that, if the court so ruled, the solicitor be refrained from questioning witnesses in regard to same. Assistant Solicitor James W. Dorsey made it clear that the State was trying to show mal-treatment, the mental attitude and motive of the defendant, and stated that he would continue to ask questions which would throw light on the circumstances which led up to the death of the poor youngster. The objections were over-ruled.

One of the State's witnessses was a man who lived in the room adjoining the victim's bedroom. Although the two rooms seperated by a partition, this witness told the jury that he looked through a crack and watched Mrs. Brown whip her foster-son on Monday night, February 3, the night before his body was found. According to this witness, the defendant had tied the youngster's hands and feet to the bed with a rope and was beating him unmercifully. Wed. 3-19-47

Asked if he had ever seen the defendant beat the youngster prior to this time, the witness said yes, and related how he had witnessed her beating him with a strap, a stick or anything she could get her hands on. He added: "he (the youngster) went to the store running and came back running. She had just about starved him to death."

ACTURE OF SKULL

The State put the physician on the witness stand who examined the youngster and who also performed an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. The physician told the jury that when he first examined the victim's body it was badly bruised with many fresh and old abrosions. "There were old abrasions all over the body, extending through the skin to the muscles; a deep cut on the lip extending to the chin; and a scalp wound, extendin to the skull," he said. Asked if he succeeded in finding the wound that caused the death of the youngster, the physician answered yes. "There was a wound at base of the skull, a fracture of the skull, whch was directly responsible for death. Exposure and the lacerations were contributory causes," he added.

Wed. 3-19-47

Another witness for the State testified that while he did not witness the brutal attack on the youngster immediately prior to the death he had seen Mrs. Brown beat him on two occasions. "One morning, I came to her house and she had him tied to the bed in the middle room and was beating him. Then on another occasion, I drove up in front of her house, and she was beating him in the yard with something that resembled a cue-stick," he stated.

RELATIONSHIP NOT CLEAR

The exact relationship between the youngster and his foster-mother was not made clear during the trial One witness stated that the defendant told her boss man that the youngster was her cousin's son, but defense counsel objected to hearsay testimony and it was ruled out.

City Detective R. E. Little, Jr., who with his partner, Detective C. L. Taylor conducted the investigation leading to the arrest of the defendant related his conversation with Mrs. Brown, shortly after the body was found and on other occasions. He quoted her as saying that at one time a man with whom she lived whipped the youngster, and also stated that on one accasion the youngster spilled some hot grease on himself.

Asked if Mrs. Brown had ever been arrested for beating the young ster Detective Little answered yes, but added that she was later released because the youngster refused to testify against her.

The State's last witness told the jury that he went to the defendant's home on Monday morning, February 3, to return a plate in which a young lady who lived with Mrs. Brown had given him dinner on Sunday. While there, the youngster came to the house, ill-clad and without shoes. "It was very cold and he was shivering," he said.

SMART MOVE BACK-FIRES

At this point, Attorney Turner attempted to pull a smart move, but it back-fired. He requested that the jury leave the courtroom and then asked Judge Renfroe to have jury return a verdict of not guilty, since as he put it, "there had been no evidence to show that the defendant was directly responsible for the youngster's death." Judge Renfroe made it clear that the court would let the jury decide.

The defendant's first witness was her niece. She testified that the last time she saw the victim was around 7 o' clock, Sunday night. Asked if she knew why the defendant continued to beat her foster-son, this witness said yes,- "for stealing and running away from home". Asked what he stole, she said "oranges, apples and other things." Wed. 3-19-47

DEFENDANT TAKES STAND

The defendant took the stand and in her statement to the jury said: "How could I have whipped that boy on Monday night, when I had not seen him since Sunday. She told the jury that she walked all day Monday trying to find him, explaining that she had been to the police station the juvenile court and practically all over the westside.

In his argument the jury. Attorney Turner spent most of his time stressing the fact that the strap, which had been intorduced as evidence in the trial was not an instrument capable of producind death. He also contended that there was not enough evidence to convict his client.

ASKS DEATH PENALTY

In his summary to the jury, Assistant Solicitor Dorsey stated that this is not only murder, but the most brutal murder he had ever pro secuted. "I have never asked for the death penalty before, but in this case, I feel that I would be shirking my duty, if I did not ask for the chair. This poor boy has as much right to live as this woman, who took his life. The fact that she beat him the night before his body was found is proof enough," he stated.

Wed. 3-19-47

The defendant, who sat through most of the trial composed and at ease, dropped her head and sobbed while the prosecuting attorney was making his final argument to the jury.

I Didn't Intend To Kill,' Says Doomed Carrollton Youth

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

By MARION E. JACKSON

"I knew they wouldn't believe me." That's how Eddie Brown began his story to me yesterday in Fulton Towers, where he is awaiting death in the fatal shooting of George Andrew Boyd, a few weeks ago in Carroll County.

"I didn't intend to kill, I became excited, that is why I tried to escape without notifying anyone I had shot him. I had never seen him before. I had never had words with him. That man died without ever knowing what happened to him." Fri. 8-1-47

That was the torrent of words that flew at me as I talked with the youth. This was Eddie Brown's real story. The one he did not get to tell last week at Carrollton, Ga., where the mob spirit, and community hysteria, were brought into play. Where racial tension turned a community into an arsenal. Where hundreds of uniformed highway patrolmen ruled with armed might. That was the town where a jury took only six minutes to return a verdict that brought Brown into the shadows of the electric chair.

Here is Brown's story as told to me Thursday in Fulton Towers:

"I had a net up the creek when I heard this fellow drive up. I left my net which I was fishing with because I thought it might be the law and they didn't allow you to use nets.

"He asked me what was I doing and I told him I was hunting rabbits. He said stick around, I think you will find one. I went across the road and sat down 40 or 50 minutes and then a rabbit came running down the road

"I then walked across the road to pick up the rabbit and found him dead. I BROKE AND RAN. Then I came back and found him lying on the edge of the creek. I pushed him in then took his car and went and swapped the car.

"I HAD NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE. I HAD NEVER HAD WORDS WITH HIM. THAT MAN LOST HIS LIFE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT."

Eddie Brown was sentenced to death by Judge Samuel J. Boykin. Before and during the trial thousands of spectators, many of whom were members of the mob that had scoured the countryside for him, milled threateningly outside. The tension was so thick it could be cut with a knife. Plain mob hysteria backed every word of the prosecution. The jury needed only six minutes to reach a verdict. That verdict was death. Fri 8,1,1947

Eddie Brown had only married 4 months ago. His wife is Corether Brown, who is still pushing his lawyers to appeal the verdict. She lives at Carrollton, Ga. His mother is Mrs. Geraldine Sims, who lives with his step-father near Temple, Ga. His brother is Herbert Brown, on whose farm, he was found sleeping on June 29th. Fri-8-1-47

Here is more of the unfortunate youth's story. A story which possibly and does happen to hundreds of hunters over the world today. It reads like this:

"I didn't intend to kill him. I became excited. I knew they would not believe me. So I ran away. Then came back and took his car and went to town and swapped it. But these stories were lies that 'man told on me who traded cars with me." Fri-8-1-47

This is Eddie Brown's real story. Not the one born of hysteria and fear. His story Thursday was removed from that atmosphere of mob, rope, faggot and fury. He told his story calmly and with an intelligence that belies his sixth grade education. He was as solemn as if he was in the Shiloh Baptist Church, where he attended Sundays. As sane as the days when he farmed 29 acres of cotton at Hick's Level. And yet Eddie Brown is scheduled to die for this unfortunate death. Must society exact this pound of flesh under these circumstances? Atlanta Daily

A hearing for a new trial will be held in Carrollton August 23.

Two Electrocuted At Tattnall Prison

Atlanta Ga.

REIDSVILLE, Aug. 1 — (AP) — Robert Lee Stanford, of Augusta, and Ebenezer Scott, of Savannah, Negroes, were electrocuted at the Tattnall State Prison here Friday.

Atlanta, Const.

Stanford, 25, was convicted of the holdup slaying of Harry Woo, a Chinese-born groceryman, in Augusta in October, 1945.

8-2-47

Scott, 27, was convicted of the fatal stabbing of Fannie Milton, a Negro woman, in Savannah.

Negro Saved From Mob

Birmingham - Ala.

Receives Death Sentence

B'ham News

CARROLLTON, Ga., July 25—(AP)—A 22-year-old Negro who barely escaped a mob which stormed the County Jail here June 30 was convicted yesterday by a Carroll County jury of murdering a white man. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair. Fri. 7-25-47

Judge Samuel Boykin, however stayed the death sentence imposed upon Eddie Brown, Jr., pending a hearing Aug. 23 on an appeal for a new trial.

Brown was convicted of slaying David Andrew Boyd, a 23-year-old farmer.

Camp Warden, Aides Cleared

Atlanta, Ga. Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

BRUNSWICK, July 18—(AP)—A Superior Court Grand Jury Friday exonerated Warden H. G. Worthy and five guards in the slaying of eight Negro convicts in a mass escape attempt at a highway prison camp here a week ago.

The 23-member Grand Jury returned a special presentment which said evidence "showed the warden and guards were justified in their action under the circumstances." Sat. 7-19-47

The warden and guards opened

fire with shotguns when 27 Negroes, who had balked at road work, attempted to flee the prison camp. Five were killed instantly, and three died later in a hospital. Five others were wounded.

Warden Worthy said the break attempt and the volleys from the officers' guns followed an attempt of one of the convicts, Willie E. Bell, to charge and disarm him. The warden shot Bell in the leg. Sat. 7-19-47

WARDEN FREED IN GEORGIA MASS MURDERS

Slaying Of 8 Prisoners Termed Justifiable

BRUNSWICK, Ga., July 21 (NNPA)—Warden H. G. Worthy, who was accused of the massacre of eight prisoners on a Georgia road gang while he was allegedly intoxicated was exonerated by a Superior Court grand jury last Friday. 7-25-47

The mass killings occurred July 11, at a prison camp near here

The 23-member grand jury returned a special report which said evidence "showed the warden and guards were justified in their action under the circumstances.

One version was that warden and guards opened fire with shot guns when twenty-seven prisoners, who had refused to work on a road project, attempted to escape from the stockade. Five prisoners were killed instantly and three died later in a hospital. Five others were wounded. The St. Louis Argus

Warden Worthy said the attempt to escape and the volleys from the officers' guns followed an attempt of Bell to charge and disarm him. The warden shot Bell in the leg.

At a coroner's inquest, Bell testified that Warden Worthy was "half drunk. St. Louis Mo.

Youth, 15, Sentenced From 5 To 12 Years In Playmate's Death

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

With tear clouded eyes 15-year-old Nathaniel Patterson of 548 Old Wheat Street, N. E., stood shyly before Fulton Superior Court Judge Frank A. Hooper Tuesday and was sentenced to from seven to twelve years for the August 6 ice pick slaying of another teen-ager, Orell Johnson of 533 Auburn Avenue.

After a long and hectic trial which saw many witnesses parade before the court, the jury deliberated for 30 minutes before returning its verdict which found the youth guilty of voluntary manslaughter and fixing his sentence at the above stated years. Wed. 9-10-47

Sixteen-year-old Orell Johnson was allegedly slain when the two boys became engaged in a scuffle that resulted from a misunderstanding of a ten cents gambling debt.

Witnesses testified that before the scuffle began, Johnson had a pocket knife in his hand but placed it in his pocket before he grabbed Nathaniel. It was during the tussle that Nathaniel was said to have administered the fatal blow that penetrated the region below the victim's heart. The scene of the slaying was Howell Street and Auburn Avenue.

When Nathaniel took the stand and testified in his own behalf, he told the jury in his childish voice that he stuck the victim in self defense—in fear that he would be stabbed himself. Wed. 9-10-47

In imposing sentence on Nathaniel, Judge Hooper asserted that he disliked sentencing one so young. He admonished the youth for carrying the ice pick. I must carry out my duty, however, the judge pointed out and imposed the sentence.

Warden, Guards Freed In Slaying of Negroes

P/M

New York, N.Y.

BRUNSWICK, Ga.

A Federal Court Jury needed but eight minutes to agree that the former warden and four guards at nearby Anguilla prison camp were not guilty of violating the civil rights of eight Negroes by unnecessarily depriving them of their lives. 11-5-47

The packed courtroom heard the verdict silently, heeding the warning of Judge Frank M. Scarlett who said sternly that he would not tolerate any demonstration. During arguments, which followed five days of testimony, Judge Scarlett rebuked defense counsel for asserting that behavior of the Negro convicts was "Communist-inspired."

In his instructions, he reminded the jury that the slain Negroes had rights as citizens under the Constitution even though they were in prison for serious crimes.

Prisoners' Story

The Government built its case on the testimony of surviving Negroes, five of whom were wounded. They said they were among 27 men who refused to work in waist-deep water infested with poisonous snakes, in a ditch-digging operation, and were taken back to the camp stockade.

Willie Bell, described by Warden H. G. Worthy as the convict ringleader, said Worthy had been drinking before the shooting and arbitrarily picked him for punishment. He denied that he lunged at Worthy as the warden approached him with a pick handle and a pistol.

Worthy and his four co-defendants told identical stories. They said the convicts refused to work in water even up to their shoes. They said some of the convicts had armed themselves with iron bars and were threatening a break for freedom—which convict witnesses denied – when Bell lunged at Worthy who fired three shots at the Negro's feet, wounding him slightly.

Defense Claims 11-5-47

After that, the guards asserted, the prisoners began running and they fired at prisoners running toward them, believing the Negroes planned to take their guns.

In argument, Defense Counsel Vance Mitchell declared the Negroes were making "a desperate break for freedom" and asserted a wave of rapine and murder would have followed their escape.

"Are we here to protect so-called civil rights of convicts who are guilty of murder, rape, sodomy and every other crime," he demanded, "or are we here to protect civil rights of the men who were watching over them?"

District Attorney J. Saxton Daniel argued that the convicts—cowed and frightened by deliberate fear-making tactics—were only running wildly for shelter after the warden had opened fire.

"It is an absurdity to even think that these unarmed men would run into the face of guns they knew were loaded," Daniel told the jury.

Death Chamber Scene Described

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

Men Had Refused to Work in Swamp

8 WANTONLY SLAIN

11-8-47

Ga. Juries Freed Killers on Trial

By DOUGLASS HALL

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — "We just layed there and kicked and tried to find some kind of safety. After I saw I was shot I pulled my shoes off because I did not want to die with them on. Several of the others did too." Sat.

In simple graphic words, one survivor told the story of the mass murders of the Glynn County convict camp, where on July 11, on orders of Warden H. G. Worthy, eight prisoners were massacred.

Worthy, relieved of his post, alongwith the guards who participated in the shootings, is facing trial in Federal Court here on charges of having deprived the prisoners of their civil rights.

Acquitted by Ga. Courts

A coroner's jury, a Glynn County jury and a special committee of the State legislature had absolved the warden and guards of blame in the wanton murders.

The killers' present trial is being conducted before U.S. District Judge Frank M. Scarlett. The civil rights section of the Justice Department in Washington obtained the indictment of the guards and Worthy under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

Prisoners Called Rebels

Called "rebellious" because they objected to working in a slimy, snake infested swamp after they had killed two snakes in it, a group of convicts were ordered into a truck and driven back to the camp, where approximately 12 were shot, eight fatally.

The defense's story, as told by W. T. Roberts, a Glynn County policeman, is that the officers were forced to do the shooting.

Roberts testified that Worthy had lined up the men in the prison camp yard after 27 of them were returned from a road detail for refusal to work. Afro-American

Threatened, Says Warden

The warden, holding a pick handle, faced the group and ordered four or five to step forward, Roberts said. Several guards standing nearby were armed with shotguns.

Under cross- examination by District Attorney J. Saxton Daniel, Roberts said Bell was 10 or 12 feet from the warden and "lunged" at him, advancing two or three steps. Baltimore Md.

The witness earlier denied that Worthy had told Bell he was going to kill him, as some of the colored prisoners testified.

Escape Attempt Denied

Five convicts, giving their side of the story, told the jury the warden and guards had instilled so much fear in the prisoners they broke and ran when the warden fired at one. 11-8-47

Fear among the prisoners was so great that the men had resigned themselves to death on the day of the shooting, Bell told the jury. All of the five said the convicts had not attempted to escape, but broke and ran after Worthy fired at Bell.

Maxwell testified that after the warden shot Bell, Chief Henderson waved a tommygun and shouted, "Boys, this is it," and started shooting.

Henderson is not under indictment in the case. Warden Worthy and Guards Guy McNabb. Remer Bazemore, H. L. Holmes and W. C. Lawler are defendants.

Singles Out One Victim

Bell declared that the warden obtained two pick handles, and held one while he addressed a lineup of the prisoners. He said the warden asked him to step out, declaring, "Peewee, I'm going to kill you."

Bell said he was convinced the warden would kill him, and did not come out of the line. He denied a defense charge that he lunged at the warden, declaring the latter fired at him from 15 feet. Bell was wounded slightly in the hip.

"Then the guards began firing and the men started running. Some tried to get under the barracks building," Bell said.

11-8-47 (Ga.)

All-White Jury

U.S. Attorney Daniel announced late last Wednesday that the Government had finished its case. An all-white jury is trying the case. One colored man on the panel of prospective jurors, Clarence Buggs, a mail carrier, was stricken from the panel on motion of the defense counsel.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (Germany)

MP SGT. TO HANG

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

MANNHEIM, Germany — A military policeman, Sgt. Samuel Stevenson has been sentenced to hang for shooting Sgt. Burchard L. Buckner, his superior.

5-31-47

Time ILLINOIS 9-22-47 Chicago, Ill.

"I Have Had My Fun"

In the Cook County jail one day last week, Ernie Gaither, 23, a Negro who had killed a man in a holdup, laboriously began to write:

"I am here . . . with only six days to live before I go to the electric chair. . . .

"I never have worked in my life. I preferred boxing because I thought I was tough. . . . I was one of the best fighters in my class at one time, but how do you think I got my money? I didn't get all of it from boxing. I was a stickup man that's what I was at the age of 16. I was boss of a gang, I mean I was the head of some tough guys."

Rogues' Gallery. "It was eight of us the names is Earl Parks, who was known as Smiley because he would kill you with a smile on his face. The others: Herbert Liggins, known as Hop-a-long because he was crippled; Charles Jones, known as Pretty Boy because he was a nice looking guy. Charles Hill was known as Colorado Kid. William Lee was known as Wild Bill. Clyde Bradford was known as Blue because he was so dark. Percy Bellmar was known as the Wheeler because he was a good driver. He really was my number one wheeler. 9-22-47

"I was known as 'Little Gaither the Money Waster and Woman Chaser.' I thought I was a big shot. Two or three grands on me at all times. Ill.

"All the guys I name they are in prison, all but one, he went to the chair. His name was Earl Parks. I even went to prison myself . . . for the Jackson Park murder in 1940. . . . I got out in June '46. It looks as if that sure have been a lessing to me don't it. But it wasn't. . . .

"Well, I have had my fun. But the end of my life is about here. So boys Please don't do as I have did. Do as I say."

Fools' Bravery. "You are not tough when you put a gun in a man's face and take what he has worked hard for. It don't take guts to do that. Any fool can put a gun in his hand and do wrong. But it takes a man with guts to get a job and work for what he wants. 9-22-47

"It feel funny for me to talk this way but it is the truth." 14c

The day after Ernie's letter was given to the newspapers by Warden Frank Sain, Cook County's Assistant Public Defender asked Governor Dwight Green for a stay of execution so that a clemency petition could be prepared. A six weeks' stay was granted. Said Ernie: "If I could stand in front of Governor Green and tell him what's in my heart, maybe he can give me a chance to live and spread the word."

* Rough translation: "Ah, them bums."

Slayer Of Cop To Face Death In Electric Chair

Defender Chicago, Ill.

Charles Crosby, 37, was sentenced to die in the electric chair by Judge Elmer J. Schnackenberg in Criminal Court Friday for the murder last Sept. 29 of Lt. Herman Ziebell of the Forest Park police force. Date of the execution was set for May 16.

Zeibell was shot and killed when he questioned Crosby and Henry Hitson, 38, concerning a burglary in a service station at 7901 Roosevelt rd. Hitson, who pleaded guilty to the murder, was sentenced to 199 years in the penitentiary. Sat. 2-22-47

Father Who Killed Landlord After Fatal Fire on Probation

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

CHICAGO (ANP)—James Hickman, 44-year-old worker, four of whose children were burned to death in a fire eariler this year, last week was placed on probation for two years after pleading guilty to manslaughter inthe death of his landlord, David Coleman, 24.

Hickman charged Coleman set fire to the biulding in order to oust him as a tenant. After the fatal fire, the steel worker came upon his landlord sitting in a parked car on July 16 and shot him to death. Sat. 12-27-47

The orginial charge of murder, was reduced by agreement with the State's attorney after the jury's failure to agree after 19 hours deliberation resulted in a mistrial. Thousands of letters poured in asking clemency for Hickman and a defense committee was established to rally support.

GOES CALMLY TO CHAIR

Ernest Gaither Pays With Life For Murder Of Tavern Keeper

Defender, Chicago, Ill. Sat. 11-1-47

Efforts to commute the death sentence of Ernest Gaither Jr., 23, to life imprisonment failed and the youthful slayer of a Westside tavern keeper, Feb. 9, was electrocuted in the Cook County jail at 12:09 Friday morning.

Before he walked calmly into the death chamber, the husky, former gang leader sang three church hymns in his cell with Rev. Theodore Harper, a Baptist minister. He joked with his guards and told Sheriff Elmer J. Walsh he was ready to go.

During his last hours, the once bragging stickup-killer thought of his mistakes and asked that his advice to go straight be given to other youths.

Thinks of Mother

"Keep reminding the fellows to go straight, get a job, and work for what they want," he told Rev. Harper. "If they do that, they'll have the whole world on their side." Sat. 11-1-47

Five hours before he died, Gaither wrote his last three letters. They were addressed to his mother, Mrs. Australia Gaither, of 3744 South Parkway; his aunt, Mrs. Lucille Brown, 514 E. 38th st., and Warden Frank Sain.

To his mother he said, "I do hope that this will be a lesson to other young boys. I am sorry I didn't listen to you. You did all you could with me."

He told Warden Sain, "I am very happy that I am ready to leave this worried world. Tell all the boys in here and outside that crime don't pay no one but the lawyers."

At the O. F. Douglas Funeral Home at 4521 State st., many of Gaither's friends viewed his body with thoughtful expressions. "It is better to go straight than to lie here like this," said a youth of about 21.

Crime Doesn't Pay, Killer Warns As Pardon Board Studies Appeal

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 10-25-47

By R. B. GOLDSBERRY

The state pardon board took under consideration Tuesday a plea of executive clemency for Ernest Gaither Jr., 23, condemned slayer of a westside tavern keeper Feb. 9. Gaither is scheduled to be electrocuted Oct. 24.

John Branion, assistant public defender, asked the board to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment on the ground that Gaither, "kicked and battered around" in his earlier life, had changed his aggressive attitude to one of meekness and repentence.

In the prison chapel of the County jail last week Gaither "preached his sermon" on crime to a group of Blue Island school children. Sat. 10-25-47

Gives Advice

"The fellows going around committing crime are crazy and don't know what they are doing," he declared "They are certain to end up in a lot of trouble."

He advised the young ones to go to church, "for religion will keep you out of trouble and on the right side."

When Gaither spoke, he gave the impression he was a mechanical contraption into which someone had placed a human voice. Literally speaking, inside of him was dead. He was an empty shell, a husky youth of 23, without life.

Tells Of Crime Defender

Facing the electric chair, Gaither's vigor seemed sapped up by the deaths he has already died. "Looks like he's living on borrowed time," someone whispered. "Supposed to have died last month." Chicago, Ill.

Holding his Bible firmly, Gaither went on: "Keep close to your parents and obey them. Stay off the streets and out of bad places. Go to school and study hard."

A former prizefighter, gang leader, and gambler, the condemned killer told of his career in crime, how he became tough and thought he was a big shot. 10-25-47

Hits So Called Big Shots

"Many fellows get the big shot complex too soon. It only leads to trouble," he asserted. "Instead of going to school and making something out of themselves, they rob to have money and expensive clothing to impress others they are important.

"But they are only kidding themselves. Eventually, they'll end up where I am, for there is a long chain of evidence that follows you down the line; one day it will catch up with you."

As Warden Frank Sain led Gaither to his cell, he said:

"He's doing a fine job in helping the youngsters go straight."

After the fatal fire of Jan. 16, Hickman accused the landlord, David Coleman, of setting it to force the tenants out, "because he wanted to make more money." Grieving over the loss of his children, Hickman shot and fatally injured Coleman July 16 in front of Coleman's home at 2724 Prairie ave.

During the past two weeks, Hickman was tried on a charge of murder, but the cases ended last Saturday in a mistrial when the jury failed to reach a verdict.

Monday the case was called before Judge Rudolph Desort who set Jan. 3, 1948, for a new trial.

2nd Mystery Blaze Guts Hickman Home

Defender Chicago, Ill Sat. 11-29-47

Fire of suspicious origin early Saturday morning gutted an empty three-story tenement at 1732 Washburne ave., where the four children of James Hickman lost their lives in a blaze last Jan. 16.

Starting on the upper story, the flames swept through the roof, destroyed a front room and caused damage estimated at $2,000.

The blaze was of a suspicious nature, said Second Deputy Fire Marshal Otto Dahl. "It was too intense to discover its cause," he added. Sat. 11-29-47

No Reported Injuries

No one was reported injured. The four families who continued to live there since the four Hickman children were killed, had vacated the flats Friday.

They were forced to move because the building was scheduled to be "chopped up" into kitchenettes, the occupants said.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (Japan)

GI Gets Death In Murder Of Japanese

Informer
Houston, Texas

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH 10C

Headquarters Eighth Army, Yokohoma, Oct., —(NNPA) — Private Albert Williams 23, Wake Forrest, North Carolina, of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 14th Replacement Battalion, Fourth Replacement Depot has been sentenced by a general court martial to death for the murder of Shinichi Ishikawa, 38, a Japanese national living at 22, 2-chome, Wakaiy-ch, Minami-ku Yokohoma. 10-25-47 SAT.

An accomplice, Pvt. Willie L. Middleton, 21, 5655 Indiana Avenue, Chicago, assigned to the same station was granted a separate trial, while a third man, Pvt. James Price, 1652 Sherman street, Dallas, Texas, 72d Transportation Corps Truck Company who was with the other two accused men at the time of the incident, served as a material witness at the court martial.

Negroes treated her better, says white murderess of Negro

Tribune
Los Angeles Calif.
12-6-47

DES MOINES, Iowa — A white woman who was sentenced to a years in the women's reformatory and fined $100 for the murder of her Negro lover, told the court last week that she had been married to two Negroes and two white men.

She "chose to stay with the colored race," however, "because they treated me better." Sat. 12-6-47

No stranger to the reformatory, Mrs. Esther Mildred Baker, 34, has had 45 arrests in five years for drunkness, prostitution and larceny.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (Kentucky)

WIFE SLAYER GIVEN LIFE

Louisville, Ky. Defender

14c

Witness Tells Of Fatal Attack On Woman

Sat. 6-21-47

After an agreement between Prosecuting Attorney C. W. Anderson Jr. and Defense Attorney Frank Cahill, a twelve-man Criminal Court jury, without leaving the jury box, sentenced Inman English to life imprisonment Tuesday afternoon. English was charged with the murder of his wife, Mrs. Mary Louise English in March.

Witnesses Testify

One of the witnesses, Will Browning, 812 West Walnut st., where Mrs. English was killed, stated that English brought his wife to his home about 2 a.m., March 31, and asked had she been there. When he answered "yes," English turned and slapped his wife, and began hitting her about the face and head with the butt of a gun. "She fell to the floor," Browning said, "and English tried to make her get up. When she didn't he kicked her. He dragged her to a cedar chest, in the room, and sat her up trying to awaken her. When she did not respond. he walked out of the room saying, "Oh, Lord, she's dead."

Neck Broken

The coroner, Dr. Roy L. Carter, stated in his testimony that Mrs. English had a fractured skull and broken neck when he examined her. "Both could have caused her death," he said. Sat. 6-21-47

The investigating officer, W. Morris, said when he arrived at the scene, Mrs. English's body had been moved to a bed, and that English was picked up later in his room, located at 455 South 7th st. "The weapon, a .38 calibre ring-handled pistol, was found under a mattress," he said. English was not drunk, he added, but had been drinking from a recently opened bottle.

Judge Lorraine Mix told the jury that at all times English had admitted his guilt and was willing to accept his punishment.

'Dead' Man Now Starting Life Term

Courier-Journal

10-10-47

Louisville

14c

Willis Takes Ky. Louisvillian From Death Row

Jack Wright, a Louisville murderer legally dead for two years, yesterday began serving a life term at Eddyville Penitentiary. The long "lease" Wright held on a death-row cell was terminated with a commutation of sentence by Governor Simeon Willis.

Wright and William Anderson, both Negroes, were convicted in early 1945 of killing Louis Homburg in a second-hand store at 227 S. Preston. Both were sentenced to die. Both went to Eddyville to death row.

Anderson appealed, was given a new trial, and then entered an agreed plea that carried life imprisonment. Wright went to an Eddyville death cell in June and Judge Loraine Mix, of Jefferson Criminal Court, signed an order granting an appeal.

There the law became tangled up. The appeal never was perfected—one of his lawyers went to the Army and another failed to complete the record. But the day of electrocution fixed by Judge Mix—October 5, 1945—came and went with Wright sitting in the shadow of the chair.

After Anderson got life imprisonment, Warden Guy Tuggle, of Eddyville, heard Wright's story. A new effort was made to get Wright a retrial.

"But I doubt if there was anybody in Kentucky that could either grant a new trial or fix a new date for his execution," said Judge Mix last night. "As far as this court was concerned, he was a dead man. I was surprised when I found that he had neither appealed nor been electrocuted." 10-10-47

New Attorney Named.

A new attorney was named by Judge Mix almost a year ago to handle an extraordinary plea for a new trial. This came to nothing when the unprecedented legal snarl could not be unraveled.

"I had lost jurisdiction to do anything, either resentence him or try him over," said Judge Mix.

"I wrote the Governor, not because I felt Wright deserved any mercy but because the only way I could see to unsnarl things was through the exercise of his powers of clemency." Fri

Frank A. Ropke, Commonwealth's attorney, joined in the appeal.

Wright enered death row June 7, 1945, and had never left it. Governor Willis explained sentence was not carried out because Tuggle was informed there was an appeal pending. While waiting his turn that never came, Wright saw five men led out the cellblock to electrocution.

Another Was 'Forgotten.'

He had better luck than a "forgotten man" who had preceded him in "sweating out" a long period on death row. Sylvester Warner, convicted of murder and robbery in Casey County in 1935, also got "lost" from the records somewhere along the line. He was executed February 10, 1939, when his case was called to official attention.

Wright was a model prisoner except when the electric chair got its quarterly tests.

"I wish you wouldn't do that, boss, it sure stirs me up," was his typical comment when the motors hummed in the electrocution chamber a few feet from his cell.

Welfare Department investigators said Wright is 30, married, the father of three children, and had served two one-year terms for storehouse breaking.

Louisiana Weekly

14c

New Orleans, La.

Walter Williams, discharged navy veteran and alleged slayer of Mrs. Lena Gambino, white, who was to face trial Wednesday, pleaded guilty last Friday in a surprise move, and was sentenced to serve life in the Louisiana penitentiary by Judge George P. Platt.

Williams had been confined in the Orleans parish prison since December, 1945, for the slaying of the Gambino woman, the wife of Angelo Gambino, owner of a beer parlor at Danneel and Fourth Streets. Sat. 3-29-47

The surprise move by Williams' defense counsel brought one of the most sensational and talked about cases to an undramatic close.

Youth, Who Killed To Protect Girl, Sentenced To Die.

3-8-4

Defender
Chicago, Illinois

COUSHATTA, La.—A 19-year-old plantation hand who attempted to protect his girl friend from the insults of a white taxicab driver, was sentenced to death in what is said to have been record time Friday for killing the white man two weeks ago.

The Negro, Amos Batt, is said to have resented the attempt of the white man, Thomas Elmo Cole, small cafe owner and cab driver, to make improper remarks to a girl companion, as the three were returning to Coushatta from Shreveport.

4TH NEGRO TO DIE FOR KILLING NEGRO IN LA.

14c

Tribune
Los Angeles City

NEW ORLEANS— Although many Negroes commit murders of Negroes in New Orleans every year, Fri. 11-4-47 only three have faced the electric chair in 20 years. Last week a fourth, Edward Brown, 19, was condemed to die for the slaying of a 20-year-old friend.

Was Convicted Of Murdering Ward Leader

Informer

14c

Houston Texas

By John E. Rousseau, Jr.

NEW ORLEANS— Death in the electric chair became a virtual certainty for Ervin Mattio 18-year old man of 1239 South Liberty street last Wednesday when Criminal sheriff J. J. Grosch disclosed that the youth would be executed in the death chamber of Parish prison at high noon Jan. 9 1948 for the knife slaying on May 3, 1945 of Sylvan P. Cassagne Old Regular co-leader for the Second Ward. Sat 12-20-47

The date for the electrocution was set by the governor, Sheriff Grosch said.

Mr Cassagne(who was 60 years years old and was well-liked by both white and Negroes residing in the Second Ward, was fatally stabbed on May 3, 1945 in front of the Dixie Theatre, 1309 South Rampart street when he attempted to aprehend Mattio who was running out of the theatre where a disturbance had bten created. tubance had been created.

Mattio, 16 years of age at the time of the killing, has been represented by Attorney Edwin I. Mahoney, one of the city's outstanding criminal lawyers.

Several weeks ago, the United States Supreme Court denied the youth's appeal for a writ of certiorari and thus upheld the findings of the criminal district court of Orleans parish in which Cattie was convicted and sentenced to death.

Last May, the Louisiana State Supreme court denied a similar appeal. The petition filed by Mattie's attorney had described the youth as "a product of a broken home" The petition stated that the youth had only three years schooling and that several members of his family had long police records.

Prior to the 1945 slaying, Mottio was known to police as a juvenile delinquent and had escaped from the Municipal Boys' Home on several occasions. He had been charged with shooting Earl Silket, 1308 South Rampart street, a few days before the Cassagne killing and it was stated that he had come upon Silket in the theatre, had started a fight, was ejected by Paul Brunet, manager of the theatre, who struck him with a billy As he fled, the Second Ward leader, Mr. Cassagne was standing outside the theatre and sought to apprehend Mattio who stabbed, him records disclosed.

In a petition to the state supreme court,, it was pointed out that the youth never had a chance to become a decent, law-abiding citizen; that his father, George Mattio formerly of 315 Howard avenue, is serving a term in the state penitentiary for murdering his paramour Celia Walker; and that Mattie's two brothers had arrest records.

It was further contended that because of the high esteem in which the community held the victim, prejudice had been aroused againt Mattio and such prejudice was reflected in the records of the trial which resulted in the youth's conviction and sentencing to the electric chair.

14c

ERVIN MATTIO

Unless the pardon board rules favorably in his case and authorizes Governor James H. Davis to exercise executve clemency, Mattio will be put to death on January 9. Sat. 12-20-47

If executed, he will be the fourth man to pay the supreme penalty in Orleans parish since the mode of execution changed from hanging to electrocution. The other three, all Negroes were Parker Adams, for the holdup slaying of George Mansion; Anthony Wilson, for raping a white woman; and Paul Alberts, for the knife-slaying of Aumster Dixon Davis.

INJUSTICE SO GREAT IN SOUTH THAT WHITE MAN OFFERS LIFE FOR LOUISIANA NEGRO BOY

The Fla. ~~Tattler~~ 14c

Sick Veteran Would Die in Negro's Stead

Jacksonville, Fla.

Lafayette, La., Jan. 16th. — Willie Francis has declined the offer of a substitute for his second trip to the electric chair.

The 18-year-old Negro, who escaped death last May through a mechanical malfunction of the chair, says that "if anybody's gonna sit, I'll sit." And his attorney, Bertrand De Blanc, says "of course" the offer is "illegal." Fri. 1-25-47

De Blanc said he had received a telegram from the wife of ex-Army Capt. John F. Kenny of Washington, D. C., saying the veteran would take Willie's place the next time.

The telegram said Kenny was "probably permanently and totally disabled . . . and unable to obtain any consideration from the Veterans' Administration."

The U. S. Supreme Court ruled last week that another try could be made to execute Francis, who was convicted of killing a white man in a holdup.

Parish Jail
New Iberia, La.
January 15, 1947

Editor Fri. 1-25-47
The Florida Tattler 14c
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Sir:

I was sitting in my cell hoping for some good news. But when they told me that the Supreme Court of the United States said I have to go back to the chair, I just about gave up hope. I sat in that chair once and I was ready to sit in it again. But yesterday my lawyer told me he's going to ask the Court to hear the case again. He says the decision was so close maybe we'd have a chance to win. Mind you, I'm not afraid to die if the good Lord wants me to, but I do want to live if I can.

My lawyer never took a cent from me or my family because he knows we're poor. The expenses in all these courts ate up the monye sent in from some good people, and money is needed now. There are still lots of expenses and no society ever gave my lawyer any money. Fri. 1-25-47

I ask the good people to help me please. If anybody who reads this paper wants to help save me from going back to the chair, I ask them to please send whatever money they can to me here at the Jail. I'll answer and thank them all myself. Thank you, Sir, for printing this. May God bless you all.

WILLIE FRANCIS.

FIGHTS 2nd EXECUTION: 14c

Francis's Executioner Drunk, Board Told

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 4-26-47

NEW ORLEANS — Pleading before the State Pardon Board for clemency for Willie Francis, 18, convicted slayer who cheated the electric chair on his first trip there, Bertrand LaBlanc,, his attorney charged that the executioner was drunk at the time of the electrocution.

LeBlanc who argued that any further attempt to execute Francis would be cruel and unusual punishment, offered an affidavit which stated that the executioner and other persons connected with the original execution, were so drunk that it was impossible for them to have known what they were doing.

An appeal to the United States Supreme Court to intervene in the case, was refused by a 5-4 decision. The Board of Pardon must recommend clemency before the Governor of the State can act.

The affidavit was from Louie M. Cyr, former city judge of New Iberia and quoted George Etie, an eyewitness to the attempted electrocution of a year ago.

Cyr said in the affidavit:

"Mr. Etie told me that when the switch controlling the current was taken off, the drunken executioner cursed Francis and told him he would be back to finish electrocuting him and if the electricity did not kill him, he would kill him with a rock." Sat. 4-26-47

State attorneys in demanding that Francis return to the chair a second time, ignored the affidavits.

Francis had been doomed to die for the robbery and slaying of a white druggist in St. Martinsville.

Poor Willie Francis

The august Supreme Court of the United States has spoken, 5 to 4, and has decided that Willie Francis, 17-year-old convicted colored murderer of New Iberia, La., must again go to the electric chair for his crime, committed when he was 15 years old.

Willie went to the electric chair once and survived because the chair failed to function, and all sensible people assumed that he would not, contrary to Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence, have his life again placed in jeopardy.

So the Supreme Court of the United States after presumably due deliberation has turned Willie over to the tender mercies of Governor Jimmie Davis of Louisiana who says he will soon set a date for Willie's second trip to the electric chair.

The judges assumed that it would not be "cruel and unusual punishment" nor a denial of the "due process" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment if Willie was thrown back on the tender mercies of Louisiana justice. Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

The five judges who ruled adversely on Willie's case were the Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and Justices Hugo L. Black, Robert H. Jackson, Stanley F. Reed and Felix Frankfurter; while those who were for Willie were Justices Harold H. Burton, William O. Douglas, Frank Murphy and Wiley Rutledge. Sat. 1-25-47

Justice Frankfurter, eminent New Dealer, invoked the spectre of State's Rights as a reason for not interfering, but Justice Burton termed it "unthinkable," adding, "How many deliberate and intentional reapplications of electric current does it take to produce a cruel, unusual and unconstitutional punishment?"

We shall now see whether there is sufficient humanity in Governor Davis or President Truman to compel him to intervene and halt this travesty on justice.

It seems a pity that one so young as Willie and (if we are to judge by his statements) with such a fine soul should go to his death in this way because the officers of the State created a "boner."

Consider his words when informed of the high judges' decision: "I always sort of wondered if I was a brave man. Now I guess maybe I'm gonna find out. And I'm gonna find out the hard way, boss, so there won't be no doubt in my mind when I leave. A lot of men never find out. A lot of men die still wondering if they was the men they thought they was . . . It's the same thing. The same old thing. A man's got to die some time and I reckon my time has plumb done come." Sat. 1-25-47

And then when the sheriff offered to carry the bad news to the youth's relatives, Willie refused with a smile, saying:

> "No, thanks. If I need you, I'll let you know. I got four bucks and some funny books and the good Lord's Bible, and I still got the breath in my chest. No, thanks."

Here speak the poet and the philosopher out of the mouth of an unlettered boy, a voice from the mudsill of a color caste-ridden society, calmly uttering sentiments that somehow come as a cleansing fresh breeze to dispel the miasma of stuffy and distorted legalism, or as a hymn to drown out the moans of violated justice.

In the calmness of his cage, Willie Francis has purified his soul and is prepared to take his place on the right side of his Master whenever it shall be decreed by his "peers" that he must go.

We are not nearly as worried about Willie's destiny as we are about that of the social system that made him what he was, placed him where he is, and is sending him where he is going.

'Drunk' Charge In Francis Case

Sat. 4-26-47 14c

Chicago Defender

By JOHN LeFLORE

Chicago, Ill.

NEW ORLEANS—A sensational charge that the executioner and men who prepared the electric chair for the attempted electrocution of 18-year-old Willie Francis last May were drunk, was hurled Friday before the State Pardon Board by attorney for the defense. Sat. 4-26-47

Bertrand DeBlanc of LaFayette, white attorney whose untiring efforts to save the boy's life have won approval the country over, introduced affidavits at the third pardon board hearing to show that "the executioner and other persons connected with the carrying out of the execution were so drunk that it was impossible for them to have known what they were doing." Sat. 4-26-47

While the state continued to demand Francis' life for the slaying of a white man, DeBlanc offered another affidavit quoting a witness to the executioner's threat to kill Francis with a rock if the electric chair failed again as it did on the first occasion."

Assistant Attorney General M. E. Culligan retorted to a plea of commutation of sentence to life imprisonment that he defied DeBlanc "for anyone else to show where either of the courts (supreme) recommended clemency for Francis."

U.S. Court Declined Case

An appeal to the Supreme Court to review the case on the grounds that electrocution of the youth now, after the electric current failed on the first attempt to electrocute him, would constitute "cruel and unusual punishment," was denied by a 5-to-4 opinion of the justices.

DeBlanc is asking the pardon board to recommend clemency, which would lead to the Governor's commuting the sentence, on the strength of minority opinion of the Supreme Court. Four justices said that this second electrocution would constitute an "illegal "cruel and unusual punishment."

Ex-Judge's Affidavit

Is It Impossible to Kill Willie Francis?

Afro-American

Pastor Says He Holds Eternal Life Secret

Baltimore, Md. 1-25-47 Sat.

Man Who Himself Barely Escaped Chair Believes Youth's Case One for Science

By RALPH MATTHEWS
(Chief, AFRO National Bureau)

WASHINGTON

Although most people are interested in the legal aspects of the Willie Francis case, J. Reed Martin, a Washingtonian interested in the dark arts of metaphysics, has raised an entirely new angle of the bizarre case.

Last week, you will recall, the Supreme Court ruled that Willie, convicted of murder in Louisiana, was not placed in double jeopardy because the electric chair failed to function the first time he sat in it.

Legal authorities have debated this issue pro and con. Some contend that double jeopardy revovles only around the legal and not the physical aspects of justice. A man once given a fair trial (a rarity in the South) and freed cannot be tried again for the same offense because somebody did not like the verdict.

No Rights After Conviction

But once tried and convicted, no legal rights have been aborted because the contraption of death, be it chair or gallows, temporarily goes on the blink.

These theorists contend that if the law calls for hanging and the rope breaks,the only thing to do is to get a sturdier rope and proceed to complete the court's mandate. 1-25-47 - Sat.

This happened a year or two ago in the Maryland Penitentiary The condemned man was taken up and hanged over again all within the hour. Everybody thought this was a pretty inhuman piece of business, but nobody thought there had been a miscarriage of justice. 1-25-47 Sat

But Mr. J. Reed Martin, a former assistant pastor of the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church, who himself barely escaped being electrocuted for murder, believes the Francis case is more a study for the scientists than for the legal profession.

Is Body Immune?

He thinks Willie should be turned over to the atomic researchers to detemine if his body contains elements which make him immune to electricity.

If such is the case, he says we will enter an entirely new phase who sit on stools are lazy drinkers sipping and talking, keeping others away because the stools take up a lot of room.

But when people can stand at bars they crowd knee deep and pour it down by the bucketful. The take is greater. That's why proprietors are watching the legislation with bated breath.

of scientific discovery which is more powerful than atomic energy. This is theric enerby, the base of all life. 1-25-47 Sat.

It is etheric energy we take into our body when we breathe the air, he says, and this the source of life itself.

Willie Francis, he contends, was abundantly supplied with etheric energy which was stronger than electricity and therefore counteracted the latter.

If he goes back to the chair, and if the etheric energy in his body is at the same density it was on his first trip, he will come off the winner again.

Send Him to Laboratory

Now, according to Mr. Martin instead of trying to kill Willie either legally or otherwise, he could be of greater service to humanity if the Federal Government intervenes and takes Willie to a laboratory instead of the death house. There he could be used as a guinea pig. 1-25-47 Sat

If as Mr. Martin contends, Willie holds the secret of static electricity, man can live forever.

Mitchell Still Around

Do you often wonder what ever became of the former Congressman, Arthur W. Mitchell, the man with the violent temper, who succeeded Oscar DePriest?

Well, you can see him at least twice a month down around the Capitol where he still comes to get his hair cut in the House barber shop. Although he has been out of office more than four years and lives on a farm deep in Virginia, the former representative still maintains an apartment in Washington where he and his wife stay when they are in the capitol.

Like many other former lawmakers, Mr. Mitchell became attached to a barber in the Capitol and still prefers him to all other tonsorial artists.

This is not strange. Some men who have been out of office 15 years and have entered private business in Washington do the same thing. 1-25-47 Sat.

As former Congressmen, they can still use the barber shop and eat in the cafeteria, but all other privileges are curtailed after they have been out of office six months.

Watch New Legislation

Washingtonians are watching carefully the bill now in Congress to permit standup drinking in the capital.

At present there is no drinking at the bar as in other cities like Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Patrons must either be seated at tables or sit on stools at the bar. According to the people who make their bread by dispensing lquor, this slows down service and reduces the turnover.

Table drinkers buy less because at the bar like in other cities like Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Patrons must either be seated at tables or sit on stools at the bar. According to the people who make their bread by dispensing liquor this slows down service and reduces the turnover.

Table drinkers buy less because they must tip waitresses. Those who sit on stools are lazy drinkers sipping and talking, keeping others away because the stools take up a lot of room.

But when people can stand at bars they crowd knee deep and pour it down by the bucketful. The take is greater. That's why proprietors are watching the legislation with bated breath.

Two Youth Die In La. Chair For Murders

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

VILLA PLATTE, La. — Two youths were electrocuted here Friday in the state's portable electric chair shortly after noon, both of whom were convicted for murder.

Henry Ledet, 22, who was sentenced to die for the slaying of an aged colored man, Arthenon Fontenot, was strapped in the electric chair at noon and was pronounced dead 10 minutes later. Sat. 7-19-47

Henry Scott, 24, followed to the chair at 12:20 and was pronounced dead at 12:30. He was convicted of the slaying of Archange Lafleur, a white peace officer who was said to have brutalized the youth in putting him under arrest. The electrocutions took place in the Evangeline parish jail. Sat. 7-19-47

Louisiana Court Closes Files on Francis Case

The Constitution

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 13—(AP)—The Louisiana Supreme Court closed its files Thursday on the case of Willie Francis, 18-year-old Negro slayer, who is scheduled to make a second trip to the electric chair for murder.

The State Court received and filed Thursday the mandate of the United States Supreme Court, advising that the highest court had refused to set aside the death sentence on grounds of "double jeopardy." Atlanta, Ga.

Louis Niklaus, State Supreme Court Clerk, said the Supreme Court order would be sent Thursday to Gov. Jimmie H. Davis, who is expected to set a new date for the electrocution.

Francis is awaiting his fate in the Parish Prison at New Iberia. Constitution He was sentenced to die for the slaying of Andrew Thomas, a prominent white druggist of St. Martinville, La., on a robbery.

The mechanism of the electric chair failed last May at the first execution attempt and Francis survived. Fri. 2-14-47

Negro Judged Guilty In Mississippi Killing

Birmingham News

COLUMBUS, Miss., May 8—Jesse Lee Dickerson, 21-year-old Columbus Negro, was found guilty of the murder of Howard Wallace, taxicab driver.

The jury deliberated only 15 minutes before reaching a verdict.

The body of the Columbus cab driver was found on a lonely road about six miles southwest of Columbus April 17. He had been beaten about the head and shot. 5-8-47

Dickerson was arrested the same day in Hornsby, Tenn., when he attempted to pass a Philippine bill at a filling station. Authorities later identified the auto he was driving as one in which Wallace was last seen alive. Birmingham, Ala.

At the trial Wednesday afternoon, FBI Agent Robert M. Zimmers testified the bullet found in Wallace's body came from a pistol found on the person of Dickerson when he was arrested.

Willie Is Due To Die Again This Afternoon

Birmingham News

Fri 5-9-47

ST. MARTINSVILLE, La., May 9—(AP)—Barring faintly possible court action, Willie Francis, 18-year-old Negro, is to die here today for the slaying of Andrew Thomas, a white druggist. Birmingham, Ala.

It will be his second trip to Louisiana's portable electric chair. When Francis was strapped into the chair May 3, 1946, the chair failed to function. Willie walked away into one of the strangest legal battles in Louisiana history.

A young attorney, Bertrand DeBlanc, of LaFayette, La., interested himself in the case. Three times he has taken the case to Louisiana's Supreme Court. Three times he has pleaded before the U. S. Supreme Court. And three appeals have been made to the state pardon board.

All have been fruitless.

Yet there is still a faint chance some legal move may stay the executioner's hand. In turning down the third plea yesterday the U. S. Supreme Court said further appeal was possible to Louisiana courts. But whether DeBlanc could find grounds for that appeal was uncertain today as the hour neared when Francis is scheduled to die.

That hour is to be sometime between noon and 3 p.m. in the St. Martinville jail.

The young Negro's mother, who lives near the jail where Francis is to walk "the last mile," will not be here when he dies. She left yesterday for Beaumont, Tex., to visit a daughter.

Francis has been prepared for the chair. His head was shaved last night, the leg of his trousers slit. Fri 5-9-47

Father Charles Hannigan, Catholic priest, has helped Francis prepare himself spiritually.

"Willie is a mighty brave boy," the priest said. "I've coached a lot of men to die. They've all died bravely. Willie is going to be one of them."

Commitments To State Jails Increase 23%

Times-Dispatch

Richmond, Va.

50,000 Imprisoned In 6-Month Period

Sun. 2-9-47

Nearly 50,000 persons were put in jail in Virginia during the first six months of the current fiscal year—an increase of 9,343, or 23 per cent, over the like period a year ago.

This was reported yesterday in the State Board of Corrections' monthly tabulation of jail commitments, covering the months from July through December. One paragraph in the report, issued by Francis Churchill Jones, executive secretary of the board, pointed to the significance of the rise.

"The tabulations in this report," it said, "prove conclusively that crime in the Commonwealth of Virginia is definitely and unmistakably increasing rapidly and expansively. Law enforcement agencies, courts, governing bodies of the various units of government, welfare officials, educators, sociologists, penologists and all intelligent law abiding citizens should realize the portents of this trend."

Commitments in December alone, while running well ahead of the same months in previous years, showed the usual seasonal decline to reach the lowest total of the six-months. This trend, the report notes, "cannot be explained with assurance, but it appears that one of the contributing factors must be the length of the daylight period during the day, since commitments rise with the lengthening of the days and Fall as the days grow shorter."

Peace Offenses Gain

Among the various types of offenses, those grouped under the heading, "Offenses Against Public Peace," showed the greatest proportionate rise. The included:

Driving an automobile while under the influence of intoxicants, a gain of 805 commitments, or 60.89 per cent more than were jailed on similar charges in the same period a year ago.

Reckless driving, up 484, or 56.34 per cent.

Carrying concealed weapons, increase of 136 cases, or 57.63 per cent.

The ubiquitous Demon Rum also made his presence evident again. Charges of being drunk, or drunk and disorderly, sent 23,665 persons to jail in July-December, 1946, as compared with 18,709 in the like months of 1945.

Another large increase came in jailings for "offenses against persons," mainly involving assault and fighting. Here the six-month rise was 1,081, or 23.7 per cent. "A very large percentage increase" was noted by the report in homicide commitments, which jumped from 178 to 244, or 37 per cent.

In contrast to the general trend upward, there was an unexplained decline of 11 per cent in commitments for robbery.

Age Groups Reported

Among the different age groups, the heaviest crime increases were, as usual, in the 20-to-24 and 25-to-29 classes. Times-Dispatch

The report noted that the increases were heavier among Negroes than whites. "Not only have the colored males shown a considerable increase in the six-month period, but this increase has become more predominant during each succeeding month of the year," it said. Va.

"The greater rates of increase in colored commitments to jail seem of significance and should not be overlooked by officials concerned with law enforcement problems," it added. 2-9-47

The report was tabulated from information furnished by city sergeants, sheriffs and superintendent of municipal jail farms, who send the Corrections Board separate reports on each person committed to jail on any charge.

Second Try in Chair Takes Willie's Life ---Quickly, Painlessly

Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution

ST. MARTINVILLE, La., May 9—(AP)—Willie Francis, 18-year-old Negro, made his second trip to the electric chair Friday, wearing his Sunday pants and his "Sunday heart." The same chair which spared his life through a mechanical failure a year ago took it this time, took it quickly and apparently painlessly.

Electrocutioner Grady Jarrett threw the switch at 11:05 a. m., EST, and again at 11:06, and at 11:10 the Negro was pronounced dead. Sat 5-10-47

Willie paid the legal penalty for the killing of Andrew Thomas, a white druggist of St. Martinville, in a holdup that netted $4 and a watch. Thomas' brother, Claude, who was Chief of Police here at the time of the slaying, was among the witnesses at the execution.

Francis went to the chair after a year's argument over the right of Louisiana to attempt an execution a second time after a mechanical accident had prevented the first try. The fight went all the way to the United States Supreme Court, where the High Justices divided five to four last January in ruling against Francis.

Asked by the electrocutioner if he had anything to say before going, Willie said quietly, "Nothing at all."

Negro Says 'I Want to Die' On 2d Trip to Chair Today

The Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

New Iberia, La., May 8 (UP)—Willie Francis doesn't want another miracle. He's had his hell on earth.

"I want the machine to work this time," Willie said forlornly. "I want to die because as soon as I do I am going to the Lord." Fri. 5-9-47

Francis, 18-year-old Negro murderer, will sit in Louisiana's portable electric chair for the second time between noon and 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson announced from the bench in Washington that the U. S. Supreme Court had rejected two appeals filed by Willie's lawyers, Bertrand de Blanc and J. Skelly Wright.

Court Ruling Is 6 to 2.

Wright had asked for a writ of habeas corpus. He told the court that last year's abortive attempt to execute the Negro was a "disgraceful and inhuman exhibition." Fri. 5-9-47

He said the executioner and other officials at the scene were so drunk it was impossible for them to know what they were doing. But the court ruled 6 to 2 that this charge could not be brought in an original appeal to the Supreme Court.

The court indicated, however, that Francis had not exhausted his remedies in Louisiana courts.

(At Pittsburgh Wright said he would try to file a last-minute habeas corpus appeal with the Louisiana Supreme Court as result of the U. S. court ruling that further review of the case was possible there.)

Proud for Consideration.

Willie was unmoved by the rejection. Instead, he was proud that the court had even considered his case.

"Who would think," he mumbled, "that one Negro boy could get all those big men to talk about him."

The chair in which Willie will sit tomorrow is the same one which failed to work on May 3, 1946. That was when the State of Louisiana first tried to execute him for the slaying of a white druggist at St. Martinsville in 1944.

It was a miracle, God wanted to save him, Willie said at that time.

Prison officials attributed the execution blunder to faulty wiring which kept the full current from passing through Willie's body.

"It just tickled me," Willie said.

Willie, his cell littered with religious literature, believes that the Lord let him live through his first trip to the chair because "He wanted me to get my hell on earth."

"Now I'm ready to die," Willie said. "The sooner the better. I have been in this jail sweating it out for a year."

In Evangeline Country.

Willie will be transferred to the tiny St. Martinville Jail for the execution. The jail is in the heart of Longfellow Evangeline State Park, scene of Willie's crime.

Only 15 years old then, Willie said robbery was the motive for the murder. He got $4 and a watch.

14c

Youth Due to Go to Chair Again Today as High Court Denies Plea

New York Times Fri 5-9-47

New York, N.Y.

By LEWIS WOOD

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 8—Two efforts to save Willie Francis from being sent to the electric chair in Louisiana again tomorrow failed today in the Supreme Court, but the Justices held that the 17-year-old Negro couldt present "grave new allegations" to the State courts.

New York Times

The Justices, absent from the bench in conference for more than an hour, had before them charges that the executioner, and others who tried vainly to electrocute Francis last May, were drunk.

James S. Wright of Washington said in a petition:

Fri 5-9-47

"The scene was a disgraceful and inhuman exhibition, that as soon as the switch controlling the current was taken off, the drunkard executioner cursed Francis and told him he would be back to finish electrocuting him, and if the electricity did not kill him, he would kill him with a rock."

New York, N.Y.

The court later denied Mr. Wright's plea for a writ of habeas

tice Vinson explained, wished the January decision thrown out and the case returned to the Louisiana Supreme Court for proceedings to determine issues of fact raised today by the lawyers for Francis.

New York Times

Justice Stanley Reed wrote the January opinion in which the Chief Justice and Justices Hugo L. Black, Felix Frankfurter and Robert H. Jackson concured. In the minority were Justices Harold H. Burton, William O. Douglas, Murphy and Rutledge.

Lawyer to Act in Louisiana

Fri 5-9-47

After the statement was read Mr. LeBlanc, who flew here last night to present his petition, said he would return immediately and determine his next step on the way. He and Mr. Wright had wanted the Supreme Court to have a special commission, or a Federal District judge in Louisiana, make an inquiry into the allegations presented.

New York, N.Y.

When the electric switch was pulled last May 3, "presumably because of some mechanical difficulty, death did not result." A new death warrant, setting the execution for May 9 was ordered, but the case has been fought in the courts ever since. Francis had been convicted of the murder of a druggist.

Youth Calm on Eve of Death

NEW IBERIA, La., May 8 (AP)—Willie Francis sat calmly in his cell here tonight, showing no alarm over a second trip to the electric chair tomorrow, and unaware that his fate had been debated today in the nation's highest court.

His only expressed concern was a repetition of the hope that he would be able to act "like a man" when he will be taken to St. Martinville, to sit in the same portable electric chair from which he walked away a year ago when a loose connection caused the current to enter the ground instead of his body.

The Louisiana Supreme Court has denied three appeals by Francis, and the State Pardon Board has turned him down three times. The Governor cannot commute a sentence without a Pardon Board recommendation.

Tonight Willie had made his spiritual preparation with the help of daily visits by the Rev. Charles Hannigan, a Catholic priest. He had a steel crucifix to carry with him to the chair.

corpus. Likewise unsuccessful was a plea by Bertrand LeBlanc of Louisiana, that the high tribunal review the action of the Louisiana Supreme Court in refusing to grant such a writ.

New York, N.Y.

Chief Justice Vinson read a typewritten statement from the bench citing a 1944 opinion in a Nebraska case, and "in view of the grave nature of the new allegations set forth in this petition," he said the denial in the Francis case was expressly without prejudice to permit further appeal "in the proper tribunals."

Fri 5-9-47

The Chief Justice added that Justice Frank Murphy approved granting the writ while Justice Wiley Rutledge held that the plea should be treated as a petition for a rehearing of the court's January decision that Francis could be legally sent to the chair for the second time.

New York, N.Y.

Justice Rutledge, so Chief Jus-

Willie Francis, Eager to Go Cheats Death of Its Terror

PM New York,

Sun. 5-11-47

ST. MARTINVILLE, La.

Willie Francis went to his death like a man, smiling, his chin up. After living for a year and six days on borrowed time, he was almost eager to sit down again in the portable electric chair which only tickled on May 3, 1946, starting a year of legalistic debate over the question of whether a condemned killer who "died" once could be put to death again.

"I'm wearing my Sunday pants and my Sunday heart to the chair," he told his spiritual adviser. "I'm not going to wear any beat-up pants to see the Lord."

New York, N.Y.

No Other Hell to Fear

Father Charles Hannegan, who had visited Willie every day for a year, spent the last hours with him, urging him to enjoy his last meal, a catfish dinner, reminding him that he had had his hell on earth and had no more punishment to fear.

When the jailers came, at noon sharp, Willie stood up, glanced down at his Sunday pants and was ready to go. Father Hannegan touched his sleeve, but Willie waved aside the proffered help and walked alone to the death chamber 12 paces away.

At the door he looked at the electric chair and broke into a warm smile—like coming on an old friend—then wiped his palms on his pants and sat down. Asked by the Sheriff if he had anything to say before going, Willie replied quietly: "Nothing at all." Then, after the black hood was on, and the Sheriff was reaching for the switch, Willie said:

"Everything is all right."

And It Must Have Been OK

He took the 2700 volts without a tremor, indicating that he was completely relaxed. In fact, observers weren't sure that he had been jolted until the doctors stepped forward and announced that he was dead.

Across the street from the jail, on the fringe of the crowd, Willie's mother stood alone, sobbing. When the signal was given that it was all over, she walked away, alone. Willie's father and most of his 14 brothers and sisters waited quietly in their home five blocks away. They didn't know until she returned that Mrs. Francis had slipped ou to be as close to her son as possible when he died.

Also in the crowd were relative

Sun 5-11-47

PM New York, N.Y.

Willie Francis walks to the chair.

Associated Press Wirephoto

of Andrew Thomas, the druggist Willie killed in a $4 holdup three years ago when he was 15.

Unique Legal Battle Ends As Willie Dies In Chair

Advertiser Montgomery Ala

Sat 5-10-47

By ELLIOTT CHAZE

ST. MARTINVILLE, LA., May 9.—(AP)—Willie Francis made his second trip to the electric chair today, wearing his Sunday pants and his "Sunday heart."

The same chair which spared his life through a mechanical failure a year ago, took it this time, took it quickly, and apparently painlessly.

Electrocutioner Grady Jarrett threw the switch at 12:05 p.m. Central Standard Time and again at 12:06, and at 12:10 the Negro was pronounced dead.

Willie Francis told me two days ago that he was going to "wear my Sunday pants and my Sunday heart to the chair."

"Aain't going to wear no beat-up pants to see the Lord," he said. "Been busy talking my way into heaven for the past year. Them folks expecting me to come in style."

Willie paid the legal penalty for the killing of Andrew Thomas, a white druggist of St. Martinville, in a holdup that netted four dollars and a watch. Thomas' brother, Claude, who was chief of police here at the time of the slaying, was among the witnesses today.

Francis walked his last half dozen steps on earth today without a flicker of fear or apparent excitement. Twice he wiped the palms of his brown hands against the legs of his dark pin-stripe trousers.

He caught my eye as the broad chest strap was being fixed, and snapped me a jaunty one-fingered salute.

He said, "hello," silently, moving his lips exaggeratedly to shape the word.

As the leg straps were being adjusted he looked at his lap, he closed his eyes, then opened them and grinned at another witness.

Asked by the electrocutioner if he had anything to say before going, Willie said quietly, "nothing at all."

FRANCIS EXECUTED

Times

IN SECOND ATTEMPT

New York, N.Y.

Louisiana Youth Dies Quickly in the Electric Chair That Spared Him a Year Ago

Sat. 5-10-47

ST. MARTINVILLE, La., May 9 (AP)—Willie Francis made his second trip to the electric chair today. The same chair that spared his life through a mechanical failure a year ago took it this time—quickly, and apparently painlessly.

Grady Jarrett, the executioner, threw the switch at 12:05 P. M., Central standard time, and again at 12:06. At 12:10 the 18-year-old Negro was pronounced dead.

Willie Francis wore his "Sunday pants and Sunday heart" to the chair.

"Ain't going to wear no beat-up pants to see the Lord," he explained two days ago. "Been busy talking my way into heaven for the past year. Them folks expecting me to come in style."

He paid the legal penalty for the killing of Andrew Thomas, a white druggist of St. Martinville, in a hold-up that netted $4 and a watch. Mr. Thomas' brother, Claude, who was Chief of Police here at the time, was among the witnesses today.

Francis went to the chair after a year's argument over the right of Louisiana to seek an execution a second time after a mechanical accident had prevented the first attempt. The fight went to the United States Supreme Court, where the justices divided five to four last January in ruling against Francis.

Only yesterday the Supreme Court rejected another plea, which Francis' lawyer had taken to Washington without the knowledge of the condemned youth.

The Louisiana Supreme Court and the State Pardon Board each refused three times to prevent the second trip to the chair.

Francis himself told his lawyer this morning to make no last-minute attempt to stay the execution, declaring he was ready to die. He walked his last half dozen steps without fear or apparent excitement.

Asked if he had anything to say before going, Francis said quietly: "Nothing at all."

High Court and a Life

The Times

Opinions in Willie Francis Case Show Care Given the Most Lowly at Bar

New York, N.Y.

14c

By ARTHUR KROCK Wed. 1-15-47

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—The three Supreme Court opinions by which Governor Jimmie Davis of Louisiana was authorized to enforce a new execution warrant against Willie Francis, 17-year-old Negro, are human interest documents of a kind that issue rarely from tribunals. This is not because justices in such eminent place become hardened to the pitiful facts of life which are sometimes the background and consequence of their decisions. It is because this case provided an unusual emotional appeal which the majority of five, like the minority of four, obviously found very touching.

Through a defect in the electrocuting apparatus in Louisiana the first effort to execute Francis for murder in September, 1945, was a failure. He suffered somewhat, according to the testimony of witnesses, but he was not killed and he recovered from the shock.

His attorneys reached the high court with a plea that a second warrant, setting an execution date for May 9, 1946, be sent back for judicial review in Louisiana and modification of sentence be made on the grounds that otherwise the Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments would be violated.

The Louisiana Supreme Court had previously found that no basis for judicial relief existed in the premises and that any modification was a matter for the Governor to determine.

The Basic Legal Questions

Before the Supreme Court, all members of which conceded that "the question was unique," the legal questions came down to these:

Will it be "cruel and unusual punishment," prohibited by the Eighth Amendment, if Willie Francis is strapped again into the electric chair for execution? Will it be a denial of the "due process" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment if the Louisiana courts do not further examine into the facts on the basis of the plea of unconstitutionality?

For the majority, Justice Stanley Reed answered the questions in the negative. Wed. 1-15-47

He said that the provision for a second attempt at electrocution is no more "cruel and unusual punishment" than a man experiences when the State subjects him to a new trial, with capital punishment among the legal consequences, after there has been a failure to give him that sentence in a previous trial. He said that the equipment defect, which was responsible for Francis's survival of the first attempt, did not open to the boy Constitutional protections which did not exist at that time and were not then claimed. He also held that due process, within the plain powers of the State⅛ had been fully observed and would not be violated by sending Francis to the chair again.

Justice Felix Frankfurter concurred. But he wrote a separate opinion because, he said, all explicit reasons for the majority finding should be given in a case where four justices dissented and a life was at stake. He conceded that due process might be denied by a State which brutally subjected "an individual to successive retrials on a charge of which he has been acquitted" or for other excesses not present in this case. But he said that the "historic meaning of cruel and unusual punishment" in the Eighth Amendment was not to test "the penological policy of a State." And he concluded that it violated no "principle of justice" for Louisiana "to leave [the case] to executive clemency, rather than to require mitigation of a death sentence, duly pronounced upon conviction for murder, because a first attempt to carry it out was an innocent misadventure."

Minority Calls Terms Cruel

The minority opinion was chiefly concerned with the mental suffering inflicted on the boy by sending him to the chair again for a previous failure of the State to kill him, the fault being the State's and not his. The four justices, whose spokesman was Justice Harold Burton, called it "cruel and unusual punishment" to administer death by "installments" of electric shocks, whatever the reason for that. And they also said that the Louisiana Supreme Court, by barring consideration of the constitutional questiton, had not examined the plea of denial of due process.

"Francis need not "necessarily" get a "complete release," they said. But if an examination of the facts shows that due process will be denied by a second trip to the electric chair, then "the State must find some constitutional means of disposing of the case that will not violate the Constitution."

Willie Francis is a poor Negro boy and a convicted murderer. But no citizen upon whom the Supreme Court has sat in judgment, whatever his standing or the magnitude of the issue of his life, liberty or property, has more noticeably impressed on its members their responsibility to the community as justices of last resort. Wed. 1-15-47

Willie Rubs Elbows With Death Again

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Tues. 1-14-47

BY ELLIOTT CHAZE

NEW IBERIA, La., Jan. 14—(AP)—Lanky Willie Francis is rubbing elbows with death today but he's "right interested to find out if I can die like the man I thought I was."

Francis, who once cheated the electric chair, when a mechanical malfunction allowed him to walk away from it alive, was singularly cool when he learned that the United States Supreme Court had ruled him subject to another trip to the chair.

"I always sort of wondered if I was a brave man," the tall, cocoa-colored Negro said in an interview here today.

"Now I guess maybe I'm gonna find out. And I'm gonna find out the hard way, boss, so there won't be no doubt in my mind when I leave. A lot of men never find out. A lot of men die still wondering if they was the men they thought they was."

Told by his Attorney Bertrand S. de Blanc that a motion will be filed for another Supreme Court hearing, Francis said simply:

"It's the same thing. The same old thing. A man's got to die some time and I reckon my time has plumb done come."

* * *

FRANCIS SMILINGLY refused the sheriff's offer to carry the news to relatives. "No thanks," he told the sheriff. "If I need you, I'll let you know. I got four bucks and some funny books and the good Lord's Bible, and I still got the breath in my chest. No thanks."

The News

Gov. Jimmie H. Davis has said he will sign another death warrant for Francis as soon as his office receives the Supreme Court's mandamus that a second trip to the chair would not constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

Tues. 1-14-47

De Blanc said in an interview that Willie "is a lot calmer than he was last May when he walked away from the chair. He's amazing. And he's still got a chance, since the Supreme Court ruling against him was only 5 to 4. We're filing for another hearing as soon as possible. Birmingham, Ala.

Francis was sentenced to die for the robbery slaying of Andrew Thomas, a St. Martinville druggist.

Willie Francis Faces Second Trip To Chair

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

NEW IBERIA, La., Feb. 11—(AP)—Willie Francis, 18-year-old Negro who was saved from death when the state's portable electric chair went out of order, faces another trip to the chair unless Gov. Jimmie Davis grants him a commutation.

14c Sentence

The Supreme Court of the United States refused yesterday to reconsider its previous 5-to-4 ruling that the state of Louisiana is legally entitled to carry out the death sentence in a second attempt.

Told of the high court's action, Francis said in his death cell here: "I just know the Lord has my case in His hands. He's the real judge."

Francis said he didn't know whether the state would electrocute him this time, but added that he wasn't scared.

George Wallace, executive counsel to Gov. Davis, said in Baton Rouge that the governor would set a new execution date after being informed officially of the Supreme Court's action.

Francis was convicted of the murder of Andrew Thomas, his former employer, in a robbery at nearby St. Martinville.

'Time Has Done Come' Willie Tells Sheriff

NEW IBERIA, LA., Jan. 13.—(AP)—It's "the same thing all over again" for Willie Francis. That means another trip to the electric chair.

Montgomery, Ala.

"I reckon my time has plumb done come," said Francis in his cell when Sheriff Gilbert Ozenne told him the United States Supreme Court had denied his plea to prevent another attempt to execute him.

In Baton Rouge, Governor Jimmie Davis' executive counsel, George Wallace, said the governor would issue a new death warrant fixing the date for electrocution when he receives the Supreme Court's mandate.

Francis' attorney, Bertrand De Blanc of St. Martinville, announced he would file a motion for rehearing before the Supreme Court "immediately."

Willie Declines Offer For Substitute Sitter On 2nd Trip To Chair

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

LAFAYETTE, LA., Jan. 16.—(AP)—Willie Francis has declined the offer of a substitute for his second trip to the electric chair.

The 18-year-old Negro, who escaped death last May through a mechanical malfunction of the chair, says that "if anybody's gonna sit, I'll sit." And his attorney, Bertrand De Blanc says "of course" the offer is "illegal."

De Blanc said he had received a telegram from the wife of ex-Army Captain John F. Kenny of Washington, D. C., saying the veteran would take Willie's place the next time. Fri. 1-17-47

The telegram said Kenny was "probably permanently and totally disabled and unable to obtain any consideration from Veterans' Administration." Advertiser

The U. S. Supreme Court ruled last week that another try could be made to execute Francis, who was convicted of killing a white man in a holdup. Montgomery, Ala.

14c

The Saga Of Willie

So poor ignorant Willie Francis must die again. That is, he must die. Once before he died. He didn't actually die then, didn't stop breathing, his heart stop beating. But in every other way he died. He made up his mind that when he sat down in that chair he was never going to get out of it alive. His mind knew that he was going to die. He gave up all hope of not dying. And that is just as bad as the act of dying itself.

The Advertiser

Then something happened. Justice Frankfurter of the Supreme Court of the United States called what happened an "innocent misadventure." But to Willie Francis, 18 years old, colored, and not too bright, it was a miracle. He heard the jailer say, "goodbye, Willie." He had the black blindfold tied over his eyes. He had his pants leg split and his head shaved and he felt the mechanical cap on the top of his head. And he felt a tickle when the switch was thrown. But he didn't die. He yelled at the top of his lungs, "get me out of here." And the men he'd never expected to see again in this world took off his blindfold and untied his bonds and led him back to his cell. So Willie Francis died once and then came back to life.

Montgomery, Ala.
Sat. 1-18-47

And this week justices of the Supreme Court spent a lot of time talking about Willie. They admitted the case was disturbing. They were especially interested because it was a case that made history, a case that had no precedent in legal chronicles. It wasn't society's fault that Willie was still alive eating his rations in a jail in the bayou country of Louisiana. It wasn't the fault of the men who were charged by the court to see that Willie died. It wasn't Willie's fault, for he had prepared to die and had walked into that room and had sat down in that chair. It was the fault of machinery, of some pieces of wood and metal and a lot of wires and a switch, and something about them didn't work, and once again an inanimate object had thwarted the will of reasoning human beings, and Willie was alive, and most of the people in United States who read about him hoped that he'd not be killed again, and the jailers in Louisiana didn't want to go through the job of strapping him down into that chair the second time, and Willie hoped that he'd be let live to serve the God he'd recently found out about and to learn to cook for the white folks in the jailhouse. So the case went up as high in the courts of this land as the richest corporations in the country can take their cases. And the nine men who spend their time thinking about the law in terms of philosophy and the constitution, and who settle the struggles between great businesses and between what the government thinks is right and what private individuals and corporations sometimes want to do—that group of men sat down and reasoned out what to do with Willie Francis who barely can read the captions in the funny books folks give to him but who nevertheless loves everyone now and ain't mad at nobody, not even at his jailers. These men decided, five of them did, that Willie wouldn't be subjected to unjustifiable treatment if he was made to walk in that room again and sit down once more to die in that old mechanical chair.

Montgomery, Ala.

So Willie must die the second time. You see, once about three years ago Willie held up a man and shot him dead when he was robbing him. Willie didn't give that man a chance to get away. He didn't think about dying twice then. He just killed. That was very wrong and Willie knows it now. A lot of things have brought the evil of his action to his attention since then. The Advertiser

So long, Willie. You're going to die again. But the people of America have given a lot of their time thinking about your case. It's cost the country a good bit of money, more than you could ever earn if you lived to be a hundred. When you go this time, Willie, walk in straight and sit down and smile and say "good-bye" in a strong voice. Maybe you had a tough break. Maybe you'd have been better off if you'd died all the way that first time. But you didn't give that man a chance and at least you've had that yourself. Take it strong and easy, boy. It'll be hard this time, but you've learned a lot since the first try. And lots and lots of folks you've never heard of will feel sad when you're really gone.—Birmingham Age-Herald Sat [illegible]

P.M. New York N.Y. Wed. 1-15-47

New York, N.Y.

Willie Francis, 17, has been condemned by the Supreme Court to "die" a second time in Louisiana's portable electric chair for the murder of a druggist. However, he may be spared if Gov. Jim Davis changes his mind, or the Supreme Court heeds a plea to reconsider, or President Truman intervenes with executive clemency. Meanwhile, the New York *Law Journal*, in a front page editorial, urged Gov. Davis to commute the sentence, pointing out that four of the nine Supreme Court Justices had protested against a second execution. Above, Willie Francis in New Iberia Jail with the jailer, Clemire Norris.

The Francis Case

To the Editor:

Thank you for Max Lerner's brave and humane editorial on the Willie Francis case. P.M.

The decision of the Supren Court shocks the conscience those who believe in justice—a to do justice is surely the provin

and function of the Courts.

Rochester. ISAAC BRICKNER

New York N.Y.

When Willie Francis as a [illegible]-year old adolescent killed a man, he considered $4 and a watch the equivalent of a human life. I wonder what kind of an environment he could have had to think of life in such cheap terms. Could it be that the leaders of Louisiana felt that education and decent surroundings were a luxury? Then they were more responsible for Willie Francis' crime than he was. Tues. 1-21-47

The U. S. Supreme Court decided that Louisiana did not single out Francis for "a treatment other than that which has been or would generally be applied. . . ."

I differ with that opinion. Racial prejudice in Louisiana singled out Willie Francis for other treatment than that which "is generally applied." Tues 1-21-47

New York REGINE SEIF

'Willie' Gives Up After Last Fight

The Advertiser

NEW ORLEANS, April 22.—(AP)—Willie Francis, the only man who ever walked away from the electric chair, today lost apparently his last chance to avoid a second trip to the chair—and accepted the verdict calmly. Wed. 4-23-47

"I guess dat's all," said the stuttering 18-year-old Negro when informed that the state pardon board had refused for the third time to commute his death sentence to life imprisonment.

"I'se gonna die. There ain't nothin' I can do. I'se gotta die."

Both Louisiana and United States Supreme Courts have denied pleas for clemency. In Louisiana the governor may not reduce a sentence without the pardon board's recommendation. Today's decision of the three-man board was unanimous—as were the previous two.

In Willie's cell at New Iberia, La., a newspaperman told Willie the bad news. Beside Francis lay his noontime meal of potatoes and boiled meat, untouched, and the Bible which he always keeps near him. Wed. 4-23-47

"It's pretty tough," his interviewer said consolingly.

"It ain't tough," Willie replied. "I'se gotta die." Montgomery, Ala.

Willie's Plea From 2d Trip To Chair Denied

Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

NEW ORLEANS, April 22—(AP) The Louisiana Pardon Board Tuesday denied a plea to save Willie Francis, 18-year-old Negro from St. Martinville, from a second trip to the electric chair.

The Board was unanimous in its decision. Wed. 4-23-47

Francis, convicted slayer of Andrew Thomas, St. Martinville druggist, escaped electrocution last May 3 when the death chair failed because of a loose wire. He asked for a commutation of the death sentence on the grounds that a second trip to the chair would be cruel and unusual punishment, which is forbidden in the United States Constitution.

Tuesday's action by the Pardon Board appeared to close the last door on Francis hope to have his sentence reduced to life imprisonment. In Louisiana the Governor may not grant clemency unless the Pardon Board recommends it.

Willie's plea already has been denied by the Federal and State Supreme Courts.

Death Delayed For Court Ruling In Francis Case

Courier Journal Thurs 4-24-47 Louisville Ky.

Baton Rouge, La., April [illegible] ¼—Willie Francis, who survived one attempted electrocution, won't have to face the electric chair again until the courts have ruled on new motions filed in his behalf today.

Executive counsel George Wallace said Governor Jimmie Davis would issue no death warrant until after Judge James D. Simon rules on motions filed today for arrest of judgment and for a new trial. Thurs 4-24-47

The motions were filed by Francis' attorney, Bertrand DeBlanc, on grounds that a 13th juror selected to try Francis never was discharged. He also contends that the only eyewitness to the slaying "was never brought to testify at the trial although she was called o testify before the coroner's jury." Thurs 4-24-47

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press Wirephoto.

SO LITTLE TIME, muses Willie Francis, 18, condemned Negro slayer, as he counts the days until the second attempt to execute him, set for next Friday by Louisiana's acting Governor J. Emile Verret. Francis, shown in the New Iberia jail, escaped death once when the chair failed to operate.

Faces 2d Trip To Chair Friday

Daily Worker

Willie Francis, 17-year old Louisiana Negro, charged with the 1944 murder of a white pharmacist will take his second trip to the electric chair Friday—unless the governor intervenes. New York N.Y.

Francis, who was only 14 at the time of his conviction, escaped death on the state's first execution date—May 3, 1946— when the portable electric chair broke down. Twice the current was turned on but without any deadly effect.

The setting of a new execution date was stayed when the U. S. Supreme Court agreed to review the case. After the case was heard before the high court a 5-4 decision was handed down last January in favor of the State of Louisiana.

The dissenting opinions of the four Supreme Court justices, however give the Governor and the Parole Board broad grounds for acting in behalf of the youthful prisoner. Justices William O. Douglass, Frank Murphy, Wiley Rutledge and Harold H. Burton were the dissenters. Wed. 5-7-47

The first three Justice said: "Taking a human life by unnecessarily cruel means shocks the most fundamental instincts of civilized man. It should not be possible under constitutional procedure of a self - governing people." Justice

Burton declared that electrocution must be instantaneous and not repeated at "intervals of several days or even minutes."

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (Louisiana--Willie Francis)

14c

High Court Votes 5-4 to Let Willie Francis 'Die' Again

P.M.

By James T. Howard

The Supreme Court has voted five-to-four to keep its hands off the Willie Francis case, ruling in effect that the 17-year-old Negro boy must walk to Louisiana's electric chair again and die for the murder of a druggist in a holdup committed when he was 15. The condemned youth still has the slim hope that Gov. Jim Davis may change his mind or President Truman may intervene, holding that one "electrocution" is enough for any one man, no matter how wicked.

New York, N.Y.

Justice Felix Frankfurter tipped the scales against Willie Francis in the high court with an opinion of his own, saying his personal views were with the minority and he was voting with the majority because he didn't want to be in the position of "enforcing my private view."

"This Court," wrote Frankfurter, "must abstain from interference with State action no matter how strong one's personal feeling or revulsion against a State's insistence on its pound of flesh."

Tue. 1-14-47

"Accidents may happen for which no man is to blame," said the majority opinion, written by Justice Stanley F. Reed, concurred in by Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and Justices Robert H. Jackson, Hugo L. Black and Frankfurter.

Louisiana's portable electric chair went haywire at the last minute on May 5, merely tickling Willie Francis, who shuffled back to his cell in the New Iberia jail while counsel protested that another execution would be double jeopardy, forbidden by the Constitution.

"We have no right to assume," said the majority opinion, "that Louisiana singled out Francis for a treatment other than that which has been or would generally be applied . . . we must and do assume that the State officials carried out their duties under the death warrant in a careful and humane manner. . . . Our minds rebel against permitting the same sovereignty to punish an accused twice for the same offense. But where the accused successfully seeks review of a conviction, there is no double jeopardy upon a new trial . . . We find no double jeopardy here . . ."

Tue. 1-14-47

Justice Harold H. Burton wrote the vigorous dissent, backed by Justices William O. Douglas, Frank Murphy and Wiley Rutledge. Conceding that the failure of the first "execution" was unintentional, he wrote:

"There is no statutory or judicial precedent upholding a delayed process of electrocution. Where life is to be taken, there must be no avoidable error of law or uncertainty of fact . . . taking human life by unnecessarily cruel means shocks the most fundamental instincts of civilized man. It should not be possible under the Constitutional procedure of a self-governing people.

New York, N.Y.

"If the State officials deliberately and intentionally had placed Francis in the electric chair five times and each time had applied electric current to his body in a manner not sufficient, until the final time, to kill him, such a form of torture would rival that of burning at the stake.

P.M.

"How many deliberate and intentional reapplications of electric current does it take to produce a cruel, unusual and unconstitutional punishment? Two separated . . . applications are sufficiently 'cruel and unusual' to be prohibited."

Sheriff Gilbert Ozenne broke the news to Willie Francis. The Sheriff was quoted by the Associated Press:

"When I first told Willie he was standing at the window. He sat down hard on his cot and then he got up and started walking around the room.

"Francis said, 'It's the same thing, again. It's the same thing all over again. I got to start worrying again and, boss, I thought I'd get out of it. But I guess a man's got to die some time. And I reckon my time has plumb done come.'"

Willie Francis
'The Same Thing Again'

Down On Beale Ave.

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

By NAT WILLIAMS

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—

My mother was black and died.
  She went to Heaven.
My father was white and died.
  He went to Hell.
I'm mixed ....
  Wonder where I'm going?
  ....A La Hughes

Wed. 5-14-47

THE WILLIE FRANCIS "DEATH"

Willie Francis, the Louisana duo-death" boy deid in the electric chair at last. He was "killed" after his situation had attracted the attention of a nation and the world . . . and after he had "made his peace with God." In fact, Willie's last words seemed to indicate that in his opinion, "God had delayed his execution simply long enough for him "to get his soul right and fit to meet his Maker."

According to the public prints Willie Francis died with "complete peace of mind." It is reported that he told his lawyer, Attorney Le Blanc . . . a man whose name should go down "high" in the history of those who lent their talents to the defense of the under-dog . . . "not to try to carry his defense any further . . . that he was reconciled to death and that he didn't want the fight carried any further."

The best minds and hearts of a nation went out to the shaven-headed black boy who died last Friday. Even Beale Street . . . traditional street of the blues and as hard-hearted as any street comes . . . expressed regret over Wilile's death. Hard-boild realists as most Beale Streeters are, concession was made to the fact Francis had killed a man . . . a white man . . . that he had some kind of punishment coming. But also, Beale Streeters joined other groups in the nation who had the idea that nasmuch as Willie had been "tried to be killed once," he had earned a break for his life, and should not have been subjected a second time to the same ordeal.

Atlanta, Ga.

As a matter of fact, it is rather hard to understand the action of the so-called Christian believers of Louisiana, when they, too, have heard the words of the Christ who said something about "forgiving a thousand times," and about "turning the other cheek" . . . and the words of the Old Testament, which said something about "Vengeance is mine said the Lord; etc. Anyway, Willie is dead. My only purpose in mentioning it here is to pass on a few remarks . . . to re-print one of Willie's last letters . . . and to report what he gave the Memphis World a chance to reply to him.

ONE OF WILLIE'S LETTERS

Thanks to 18-year old Willie's intelligence, many of the Negro and white papers of the country have a copy of the following letter. It reads as follows: "Editor, The Memphis World, Memphis, Tenn., Dear Sir: I received the bad news this week that the Pardon Board turned down my appeal to have my sentence changed from the electric chair to life in prison. I wish to thank all the good people who helped me in my appeal to the Pardon Board.

"I want to thank all those who sent in so many letters and telegrams to the Board asking them not to send me back to the chair again.

"When I got the news that I had to go back to the chair, I asked the Lord to help me to be brave. I was trying to be ready. But, they say I can make one more last fight. My lawyer made an appal for a new trial. This will be a big fight . . .it will be the last fght I will make for my life. If this fails, I am through . . . . but I do want to make this last try.

"There will be lots of expenses in this fight and I ask those who believe in my case and wish to send contributions to please send the money to me here in jail and I will answer and thank them personally!

"I thank you, Sir, if you will give a fellow a chance to express himself in your great paper."

Yours truly,
Willie Francis.

The signature was Willie Francis. It was most legible. Willie Francis was an intelligent colored boy. His greatest mistake was that he "killed a white man." If he had killed a Negro, his case would not have attracted national attention.

One of the significant aspects of the Willie Francis case was the telegram which was sent to him personally from the Memphis World News Office . . . the telegram read: "To Willie Francis, c-o Warden, Parish Jail, New Iberia, Louisiana. "We ask God's mercy toward you in these final months of your life. Your courage may serve to righten the wrong done others under similar circumstances." The telegram was signed by officials of the Memphis World.

BUT, WILLIE SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED

Well, I have my ideas about Willie Francis' death. I don't think it was right. However, I also know Willie died for a certain cause. he died because he was a Negro. I also know that Willie was "killed" because he had committed the unpardonable sin . . . he had killed a white man in the South. Mitigating circumstances notwithstanding . . . Willie had to die for that. So he died. I have a sneaking suspicion that if Willie had been a white boy under the same circumstanes he would not have had to die . . . whatchubet?

Wed. 5-14-47

Willie Francis Wants to Get It Over

P.M. New York, N.Y.

By James T. Howard

Two lawyers in Washington pleaded before the U. S. Supreme Court for his life but Willie Francis, in jail at New Iberia, La., didn't seem to care whether anything came of it or not.

"I've been in this jail sweating it for a year and now I'm ready to go," said Willie. "I want the machine to work this time—I want to die because as soon as I do I am going to the Lord."

J. Skelly Wright, Washington lawyer, wanted a habeas corpus. He said there was new evidence that the executioner and other officials were too drunk to know what they were doing when they strapped Willie into Louisiana's portable electric chair a year ago and found that it only "tickled" the teen-age killer.

"The Lord is with me," said Willie. "The Lord has punished me. He gave me my hell on earth."

New York, N.Y.

Bertrand de Blanc, who flew from New Orleans, asked the Supreme Court for a review because there is a Louisiana law voted for intervention on the basis of Wright's allegation of drunkenness. He hinted that this was a matter to be taken up with the "proper tribunals," meaning the State courts.

So there is still a slim hope that Willie Francis may win a reprieve, at least, for the lawyers are still in there pitching, trying to get a saving order from the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Willie, who killed a druggist in a $4 holdup when he was 15, is scheduled to die between noon and 3 p.m. today in the jail at

St. Martinsville, in the heart of Longfellow Evangeline State Park. [illegible] 9-47

There was little doubt but what the chair will work all right this time. It has been overhauled completely and went through a realistic test night before last when Alonzo (Blackie) Jones was executed for the hitchhike murder of two persons. Willie Francis' "last mile" has been measured out in 11 steps and he has been practicing in his cell, assuring his spiritual adviser he would go to the chair "like a man."

Willie Francis

which requires that only an experienced executioner can operate the death chair. He said a convict from the State prison "executed" the youth a year ago.

"Who would think that one Negro boy could get all those big men to talk about him," said Willie when the Rev. Charles Hannigan told him what was going on in Washington.

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson read the memo in which the court rejected both pleas. He revealed that Justices Frank Murphy and Wiley B. Rutledge

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dope and data

by louis martin

The Michigan Chronicle

YOUNG WILLIE FRANCIS gave up his life last Friday for the one he took two years ago. It was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth with the state of Louisiana acting as the official arbiter in this human transaction. The news stories telling of Willie's execution spoke of "justice being done" and there is no denying that Willie had done a great wrong for which he had to pay. Yet, there was something rotten about this execution, something that's hard to put your finger on but you know it in your heart. 14c

* * *

Willie put on his special pin-striped "Sunday pants" for the execution and all the witnesses said he wore a big smile. He was quoted as saying: "Ain't going to wear no beat-up pants to see the Lord. Been busy talking my way into heaven for the past year. Them folks expecting me to come in style." According to an old spiritual "everybody talkin' about heben, ain't going there," but I believe that Willie will. If there is any such thing as mercy, then Willie is due it.

Detroit, Michigan

The execution of this youngster whose case had been argued before the U. S. Supreme Court made news everywhere. It was the second time that he had been strapped to an electric chair. The first time Willie walked away from the chair and said something seemed to "tickle" him. Somehow the electric juice had failed in a freakish way. Thereupon an effort was made to save his life by the lawyers who pleaded that a second attempt to execute him would constitute double jeopardy. Louisiana won this contest Friday when the electricity struck Willie down for keeps. Sat. 5-17-47

* * *

On paper the case against young Francis was believed to be airtight. The laws had been made to take care of the crime that had been committed and the law was supposed to be just, based on the notions of the people about the great moral question of right and wrong. The lower courts and the justices of the U. S. Supreme Court followed the law presumably to the best of their lights and this they are supposed to do. Justice is the end which is being sought and the laws and the courts were set up in the interest of justice. Here a big question comes up. What about justice for a black man in Louisiana?

* * *

Let any man regardless of his color ask himself that question and immediately he will know why I am sure that Willie is going to heaven. Young Francis was not strapped to an electric chair twice because he killed a man. It was because he killed a "white" man. This makes a hell of a lot of difference in Louisiana. The whole system of "justice" is rigged like a deck of marked cards against any colored person in that state from the day of birth until the day they put him away. To hear some of those drawling lynch-minded swine speak of justice is to make a decent man vomit, even a decent Southerner.

Sat. 5-17-47

It is sickening to the very soul to see how complacently, how calmly the Negro-hating directors of that evil company, "The Southern Way of Life Incorporated," pull the wool over the eyes of decent white Americans. This corporation was organized to keep the Negro in a state akin to slavery where he could be used and abused but never rewarded. This corporation started in Dixie but has expanded its operations all over America. They have a patent on an invention that will kick a Negro in the teeth and make it seem morally right.

* * *

Willie Francis never had a fair chance to be a first class citizen because he was born and reared behind a gigantic eight ball which the cream of Louzyana and other Southern states have been fashioning for centuries. It's like giving a man crooked dice and pointing a gun in his face and demanding that he play the game straight. Sometimes somebody like Willie Francis is bound by the very nature of the great conspiracy to throw snake eyes. It ain't fair in the sight of God nor man and it isn't just, no matter who says it is.

LOUISIANA

Sunday Heart

A year ago, the state of Louisiana tried to kill Willie Francis. The stuttering, round-headed Negro boy had killed a man in a $4 holdup. But something went wrong with the state's portable electric chair. The current "only tickled" Willie. He got up, the only man on record to walk away from Louisiana's electric chair after the switch had been thrown. Mon. 5-19-47

Willie Francis never quite understood all the hubbub that followed—the appeals to the Louisiana courts, the pleas to the State Pardon Board, the sob stories in the press. When he heard that the Supreme Court had ruled against him, he was just surprised that "one Negro boy could get all those big men" to talk about him.

His world was the narrow cell in the New Iberia jail, where he waited for the talk to end. Finally it did. Willie had to go back to the chair. His lawyer came to tell him that he thought he could still get another stay, but Willie said: "No, leave it alone. Thank you, but leave it alone. I'm ready."

In Style. Willie had his plan. "I'm wearing my Sunday pants and my Sunday heart to the chair. Ain't going to wear no beat-up pants to see the Lord. Been busy talking my way into heaven for this past year. Them folks expecting me to come in style."

Before dawn one morning last week, Willie was ready, dressed in his newly pressed Sunday pants. He ate a last meal of catfish and potatoes. At noon the cell door opened. Said Father Charles Hannigan: "We've been practicing walking the way he wants to walk the last mile. Willie says he's going to walk it steady."

Willie did. In a crowded little room stood the same portable electric chair. Willie smiled. He wiped his palms on his pants and sat down. He had nothing to say. He might have remembered the last time. (Last time, "everything begun to look dazey. . . . It was like the white folks watching was in a big swing, and they'd swing away and back and then right up close.") In the silence the sheriff pulled the switch. This time Willie was carried away from the portable electric chair. Mon. 5-19-47

14c

Associated Press

Time Chicago, Ill.

WILLIE FRANCIS

Heaven expected some style.

14c 1947

Legal Sentence (Maryland)

Judge Accepts His Guilty Plea to 2nd Degree Murder

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 5-31-47

Slaying Climaxed All-Night Drinking Party; Doctor Companion Blackjacked

BALTIMORE

"Irrespective of the many fine things you may say about Caple, he's alive and Officer Duggins is dead!"

With this down-to-earth statement, Judge Michael Manley imposed a 10-year sentence, Thursday, upon Frank Caple for the gun slaying of his buddy and fellow officer, Joseph Duggins.

An hour before, Caple pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the killing, which climaxed an all-day drinking party between the two friends on March 14.

Admits Assaulting Doctor

He also pleaded guilty to assault with intent to kill upon Dr. James E. Fassett, Provident Hospital physician, who escaped Caple's cartridges with a scalp wound and blackjack beating the night a bullet crashed through Patrolman Duggin's brain.

In view of the guilty pleas, Caple, dressed in a neat beige suit, his hair freshly cut, did not take the witness stand.

The case was outlined by William O'Donnell, assistant State's attorney, as follows:

"They tell me I killed my buddy," Caple babbled in the cell the morning after the shooting, hysterical, and still in a state of intoxication which prevented questioning .

Comrades Off Duty

The two friends had requested a leave of absence on March 14 to attend a lodge meeting. They began drinking early that morning, and continued to do so throughout the day.

They met Dr. Fassett at a Pennsylvania Ave. bar, after making the rounds of several others. From 10 to 12 drinks were consumed by each, before all three went to a private home and stayed until about 4 a.m.

On the way home, Dr. Fassett was seated in the front of the car, with Officer Duggins at the wheel and Caple on the back seat.

At Pennsylvania Ave. and Robert St., Caple said, "Let me out at Robert St.," and Officer Duggins answered, "No, we'll take the doctor home first."

"If you don't let me out, I'll snoot," Caple reportedly answered, and whipped out his service revolver, firing three shots.

One bullet went through the windshield, the other struck Officer Duggins in the head, and the third grazed the physician's scalp.

The car, out of control, knocked down a lamppost and crashed into a store. Dr. Fassett fled from the machine with Caple behind him, firing all the while.

The officer was then said to have stopped and reloaded his gun, resumed the chase, and caught up with the physician across from the Northwestern police station, after hailing a passing car to assist him in the pursuit.

Blackjack Beating Witnessed

Lt. George R. Lookingland and Sgt. William B. Venup, coming out of the station house, saw Caple atop the physician beating him with his blackjack, they testified.

"This man was stealing my buddy's car," Caple reportedly told the officers, as the group went into the police station.

When he was in a more sober condition, Mr. O'Donnell said, Caple gave them a statement saying: "We were all having fun. We left together in Joe's car."

He outlined the day's activities, beginning with drinking in the morning, and his not havig eaten anything all day but one egg, and a cup of coffee.

Captain Lauds Caple

These witnesses constituted the defense presented by Foster H. Fanseen, attorney.

Among them was Capt. William Feehley, Northwestern District, who said Caple was a "willing, efficient officer, willing to do his duty as a policeman should."

Mr. Fanseen asked the court to have mercy upon Caple, for he had made an awful mistake.

Duggins' Family Recalled

It was then that Judge Manley pointed out that, "Officer Duggins left a wife and a number of children." [The patrolman had four children.] Sat. 5-31-47

Caple stood calm and unmoved as sentence was pronounced. He managed a faint smile as he said "hello" to another officer, when being led from the courtroom.

A three-year sentence for the assault with intent to murder conviction is to be served within the 10-year term. Caple will be eligible for parole within three years and four months.

Until End

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

2 Years of Torture Since Murder Over

Sat-8-9-47

TALKS WITH PRIEST

'Just a Scared Kid Trying to Be Tough'

By MAE MORRIS

BALTIMORE

Still cocky, in fact, almost defiant, Weldon Jones tossed a careless "Hi ya, fellas" over the rail of the gallows a second before he plunged to his death at the end of a rope Friday morning.

It was the same old Weldon, and the same old shell of indifference I saw him wear two years ago in a tense Eastern Shore courtroom where he first stood trial for the murder of a white. He was 18 then.

Dangling there in the dreary atmosphere of the Maryland Penitentiary's death chamber, young ones's body gave several last jerks of stubbornness before they cut him down as a corpse 12 minutes later.

hTe boy's last moments on earth were further tortured by the crashing sound of the trap which sprung Ross Bud Abbott, a white youth who killed his sweetheart and who was hanged three minutes before. Sat-8-9-47

Official Sympathetic

Because Weldon spent two years in the death house, it was easy to understand why the warden and other prison officials spoke to him in soft tones of "easy now, boy, easy kid," as they draped the black hood over his head and placed him over the trapdoor.

On his last day alive, the youth spent most of his time with the prison priest.

He asked no favorite "last meal," but rather showed his utter boyishness, by requesting "ice-cream and cake" which he ate with relish. Earlier in the week, he asked for watermelon, which the guards obliged.

"My Last Hanging"

"They both deserved what they got," declared one of the 25 white men who witnessed the double execution.

He was speaking to me, the only woman and only colored person there, but I did not answer. To me, Weldon was always just a scared kid trying to be tough.

His was the third hanging I have seen, but it was positively the last!

Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Jones Sr., who were forced to flee their home in Chance, Md., because of the irate whites bent on revenge for the rifle killing of I. Raynor Graham, said their last goodbye to their son on Sunday.

The body was claimed by Charles H. Ward, undertaker of Marion Station, Md., where simple funeral services will be held for the boy.

The Governor wrote Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, NAACP president, late Thursday, that he had reviewed the case, and could "find no justifiable reason for interfering with the sentence of the court."

Although Holbrook was aquitted, Weldon was again sentenced to die.

Pleas Fall on Deaf Ears

A second trip to the Court of Appeals proved futile. So were the pleas to Governor Lane for commutation of sentence.

The NAACP, backed up by 20,000 members, spent $3,500 during the two-year fight for the Jones brothers, a fight which has now ended. Sat-8-9-47

Holbrook Jones has been given a new chance to live, Weldon Jones is dead.

Almost until the last hour, NAACP officials, attorneys and citizens beseiged Governor Lane with telegrams and letters, begging that he spare young Weldon's life in view of the two years he spent in the death house.

Ex-GI Freed in Shooting

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Had Killed Intruder in His Vestibule

Sat. 11-1-47

HOUSE WAS AFIRE

White Mob Tried to Run Group Out

BALTIMORE

A city magistrate this week upheld the right of a man to defend his home, and set free an ex-GI who had killed a man in doing so.

This stand was taken by Magistrate Preston A. Pairo Thursday afternoon when he freed Carnell Simmons, 27-year-old war veteran, in the killing of a white seaman who invaded his home on Oct. 11.

Simmons, his pregnant wife and two other families, a few hours earlier, had moved into a three-story house at 713 W. Fayette St., a previously all-white block.

For several hours the occupants were harrassed and their lives threatened and endangered as resentful neighbors hurled missles and fired shots through bedroom windows. Afro-American

Several hours after the nerve-torn families had retired, they were awakened by more shots and noted that fire had been kindled in the vestibule. Baltimore, Md.

Clad only in her nightclothes, the pregnant wife dashed through the flaming doorway, rebuffing attempts of a then unidentified white man to keep her in the burning house, and ran barefooted to a nearby lunchroom.

A 14-year-old boy tried to follow but was pushed back into the house by the man. Sat. 11-1-47

Veteran Fires at Intruder

It was then that Simmons, a former Army infantry machine gunner, fired several shots at the figure crouched in the doorway.

A few minutes later police found the body of a white Quincy, Mass., seaman with a bullet hole through his forehead lying in the vestibule.

Judge Dismisses Defendant

After hearing 40 minutes of testimony Thursday, Magistrate Pairo turned to the defendant, represented by Johseph Rosenthal and Bernard Melnicove, and stated:

"I feel that any court is bound to recognize the rights of a man to protect his home and Simmons did what any normal citizen would have done. I hereby dismiss him."

For the next two minutes the room was filled with "Thank you your Honor's," as the 20 witnesses and spectators congratulated the lawyers, Simmons and his wife and three brothers and the other principals in the case.

Police Held All Tenants

The police side of the case was presented through the testimony of five witnesses. They included three policemen, Fire Chief Thomas C. Hagerty and the young boy who attempted to flee. Afro-American

Police told of being attracted to the scene by the flames and finding the body of Seaman William Mayo, 49, dead in the fiery doorway.

Police admitted they placed all the occupants of the house under arrest and confined them in cells pending investigation. Sat 11-1-47

They did not list them as witnesses. "because they had been running around the house excited and did not have too clear a picture of what had happened," the officers said.

Also introduced as evidence was a statement made by Simmons in which he explained and justified his actions. Sat. 11-1-47

In order to strengthen the defense, Lawyer Rosenthal called Mrs. Simmons and Miss Alice Hawkins to the stand.

They told of the terrifying hours before the shooting and of the veteran's decision to protect his home.

The defense attorneys closed their case without even premitting their client to testify.

Ex-GI Stands Courageous

Previously reassured of his complete exoneration and liberty at this hearing, Simmons, clad in a neat, pin stripped brown suit and matching tie, stood calmly in the prisoner's docket without evidencing undue fear. Baltimore, Md.

He had been released under bail a few days after the incident and returned to his place of employment.

Lending moral support to his action were representatives of the NAACP, the Urban League and the Council of Churches.

Spectators included Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, Clarence Parham, Calvin Douglass, Joe Neal, Mrs. Vera Scott and Frank T. Rhoad Jr., all prominent civic workers.

DEFENSE OF HOME

The New Republic
11-10-47 mon.
New York, N.Y.

Acquittal. Baltimore (*NR* correspondent). – Justice came quickly, all things considered, for Carnell Simmons, a Negro charged with fatally shooting a white man who attempted to prevent him, his pregnant wife and other Negroes from escaping from their new home in a white neighborhood after it had been stoned and set afire (the *NR*, October 27).

New York, N.Y.

Simmons was held in jail 13 days. Then, after hearing 30 minutes of testimony, magistrate Preston A. Pairo dismissed the charge, and remarked:

"I feel that any court, whether it be a magistrate's court or a higher court, must respect the right of a man to defend his home," the magistrate said. "Simmons in exercising this right did only what any other individual would do under similar circumstances."

New York, N.Y.

Baltimore police, charged with the responsibility of apprehending the persons who set the fire, were not so sure. "He should have been held for the grand jury," one policeman said to another after the hearing. "After all, he did kill a white man."

14c 1947

Legal Sentence (Mississippi)

Resentment Is Not Enough

14c

Southern Weekly
Dallas Texas

DURING recent weeks the anti-Southern agitators in the North have been wailing and weeping about two "innocent children" who, they say, are about to be "murdered" by the State of Mississippi. They refer to two young negroes who have been convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Representative Huber of Ohio held forth on the subject on the floor of the House about three weeks ago, and a few days later Representative Rankin of Mississippi made a telling reply to him by quoting a negro editor's opinion of the case all the fuss is being made over. Sat 2-8-47

"A few days ago," said Mr. Rankin, "the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Huber) attacked the State of Mississippi about a couple of negroes who had been convicted of murder, and called them 'innocent children'.

"Some of these Red fronts raised $5,000 and sent it down to a negro newspaper editor named A. W. High, of Jackson, to defend these negroes with. He went down to Natchez and talked to them, and came back and said 'No', he was returning the check to the sender, because, he said, 'They are guilty as hell.'

"He said also that one of them is at least two or three years older than he pretends to be. When he asked them if they were sorry for murdering this man, one of them said: 'No, I am not sorry.'

"This editor goes on to say, 'If outside people would go to Woodville and investigate,' as he did, they would find out the same as he did, that the two defendants 'have been treated fairly' and that outsiders 'should quit criticizing the State of Mississippi'."

Unfortunately, the kind of "outsiders" who make it their habitual business to criticize Mississippi and other Southern Sates, and who manage to dig up some incident which they magnify into an "outrage" almost every week, do not want to find out the truth about such cases. They need "outrages" to keep their agitation going. They need them in order to keep on "criticizing the State of Mississippi" and other Southern States. In sending back their money and reporting that the defendants have been treated fairly, Editor High has placed his name on their black list. They'll mark him down as an "Uncle Tom", who curries favor with the whites and who is not to be "trusted". It will be noted that he is not "cooperative" and they'll warn all of their kind not to have any dealing with him in the future. Sat. 2-8-47

Such people are profesionals, when they are not out-and-out Communist agents, but they are not representative of the people of the North. The average Northerner would welcome the truth in all such cases, where he is interested at all, and most of them know that the average white man in the South is disposed to be fair to negroes and does not countenance illegal violence against them. The trouble is that the agitators have managed to get a great many exaggerated and even fictitious stories about the South widely believed among all classes of people in the North and that most of such stories are never refuted, as they might be, by competent persons who have investigated and found out the truth. There are outrages in the South, to be sure, as elsewhere. They are not to be excused and they are not condoned by the bulk of Southern white people. Southerners do not need Northern agitators to teach them morals or decency, and they naturally resent the assumption of superior concern for justice by outsiders, even in the rare cases where injustice has been committed. When the charge of injustice is not warranted, as in the instance cited by Representative Rankin, it causes angry resentment. It would be better if a way could be devised for effectively refuting such stories among Northerners where the truth is most needed. Angry resentment is not enough. Sat 2-8-47

Northern newspapers are partly responsible for the deplorable situation. The South has a "bad press" in the North. For example, *The New York Times,* in its issue of January 31st, has a 20-line story at the bottom of column two on page 42, telling of a suit for $47,500 against the town of Freeport, Long Island, brought by the relatives of two negro soldiers who were killed by policemen while allegedly resisting arrest. It is printed in about the most obscure corner of the paper under a small headline. If a similar suit were to be brought in some Southern town, *The Times* would be likely to have a special correspondent on hand to cover the story and it would be played up under big headlines. Something could be done to stop that sort of thing, and it ought to be done. Sat. 2-8-47

Electrocution of Two Youths in Miss. Draws Fire in India

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

MADRAS, India (ANP)—The recent electrocution of James Lewis, 15, and Charles Trudell, 16, by the State of Mississippi, has aroused this nation to such a pitch that the press is giving the incident front page playup and calling for the United Nations to take action in condemning the United States for this wanton act of "juvenile murder." Sat. 8-16-47

One of the leading daily newspapers here has cited the act as "worst case of judicial murder ever committed in the State of Mississippi." Another referred to it as an example of "white justice" in Mississippi."

It was pointed out such punishment could not be meted out in this country because there exists a law prohibiting the imposition of death sentence on minors. Local leaders warned that India and the colored races of the world will not tolerate any such conduct of any responsible government.

Boy Victims Of Caste System Slain By Law In Mississippi

Defender - Chicago, Ill

By JOHN LE FLORE

WOODVILLE, Miss.—Two teen-age Negro boys, underprivileged and poverty-cursed by Mississippi's cruel caste system, paid with their lives on the altar of race prejudice in the early morning hours last Wednesday for a crime committed in the innocence of their youth and deprivation.

As James Lewis, 15, and Charles Trudell, 16, died here in the state's portable electric chair, a group of at least 20 whites gathered outside the jail jested and made derisive remarks. Sat-8-2-47

Both the boys went to their deaths calmly, reciting prayers led by two Catholic priests, the Rev. Patrick Moran of Woodville, and the Rev. Kenneth Harris of Natchez. In each instance their prayers were cut off as 2,800 volts of electricity shot through their bodies.

The youths were convicted for the slaying in February, 1946, of Harry McKey, a Wilkinson County farmer for whom they worked.

There's nothing now to be afraid of." Lewis, the younger, was executed first. He was led to the chair by the Catholic priest at 1:20 a.m. and pronounced dead three minutes later. Trudell was strapped in the chair at 1:32 and pronounced dead at 1:35.

Catholic services for Trudell were held Wednesday afternoon. Catholic rites for Lewis were held Thursday. The youths were visited by their families for the last time Tuesday. Sat-8-2-47

Because of their youth, their case brought numerous pleas to Mississippi's Gov. Fielding Wright to commute the sentences. One plea was made by Mrs. Blanche Meiers, white, of Oakland, Calif., the mother of eight children. Wright refused to commute the penalties and termed all pleas interference with the state's affairs.

Destitute, and desiring things that are dear to boys, they decided to get money from their employer. Their plan went wrong, and McKey was killed in the holdup. The boys took $64 from his body after Trudell fired the fatal shot.

The youths, both holding crucifixes, received communion in their cell before midnight Tuesday, as holy candles burned on the prison table. The boys said they were not afraid to die. They said they had found solace in religion.

Trudell said, "I don't fear a thing. I feel all right and I'm praying."

Lewis said, "I feel the same way.

Mississippi Officers Worried By Ruling Of U. S. High Court

News

Birmingham, Ala.

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 9—(AP)—Two legal officers of the state of Mississippi are looking askance at a decision of the United States Supreme Court reversing a murder conviction of a Negro because, the court said, there was racial discrimination in Jury selection.

Atty. Gen. Greek L. Rice said the opinion, handed down yesterday, will "seriously" affect the "administration of the law where Negroes are being tried by white juries."

Dist. Atty. Jack Lobrano, who prosecuted the case against the Negro — Eddie (Buster) Patton — termed the decision "just another attempt of interested elements outside of Mississippi to regulate our courts and our way of living."

Lobrano, at Meridian, Miss., said Patton will be re-tried at the February term of Circuit Court.

Asked if any Negroes would serve on the jury at the second trial, Lobrano said the problem would be met when it arises.

Patton was convicted of killing a white man, Jim Meadows.

His appeal to the Supreme Court was based on a contention that the prosecution failed to overcome the presumption of intentional race discrimination in the selection of jurors. Tues. 12-9-47

* * *

HIS ATTORNEYS CLAIMED that for 30 years no Negro had been called to serve on a Grand Jury or a trial jury in Lauderdale County (Meridian), although the 1940 census showed there were 10,435 whites and 5,548 Negroes over 21 years of age in the county. Tues,

Justice Black, in delivering the unanimous decision, said the Supreme Court had found that the state had "wholly failed" to meet the very strong evidence of purposeful discrimination made out by the petitioner (Patton). 12-9-47

The opinion said the Supreme Court had held that exclusion of Negroes from state juries because of their race denied Negro defendants in criminal cases equal protection of the laws under the 14th amendment of the federal constitution.

Supreme Court Urged to Act in Doomed Miss. Boys' Case

Afro-American - Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 3-22-47 14

WASHINGTON

The final step was taken March 6, in the long fight to save the lives of James Lewis and Charles Trudell, the 14 and 15-year-old youths sentenced to electrocution in Mississippi, when Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the NAACP, filed a petition in the United States Supreme Court to obtain a review of the convictions.

The petition and brief charge that the youths were not granted due process of law; that they did not have a fair trial; and compared their conviction with the famous Scottsboro cases and with other famous trials of victims of legal lynching, which have been reviewed by the Supreme Court. Sat. 3-22-47

"The requirement. . . of our judicial system cannot be satisfied by a mere symbolic trial in which the court, the prosecution and the defense proceed ruthlessly to a conviction based upon an exploitation of the defendants' ignorance and helplessness," the brief filed in support of the petition for a review of the case maintains.

Oakland Woman Fails To Move Governor In Negro Boys' Case

Advertiser
Montgomery Ala

JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 9.—(AP)—An Oakland, Calif., mother who came here to plead with the governor to spare two teen-age Negroes from the electric chair left his office today praising him despite his unwavering decision not to commute their sentences.

"The governor is good, but the law is bad," said Mrs. Blanche Meiers, 54, mother of eight and suffering from what she described as a cancer. Fri. 1-10-47

"I still have hope that they may be saved," she continued. "The governor is sincere in his decision, but I am praying that the Lord will cause him to change his mind. Although the governor says the boys are 16, to me they are still children, and my heart is full of love for them and all children, without regard to race, creed or sex."

Governor Fielding L. Wright told newsmen that his interview with Mrs. Meiers had been "pleasant." He said she told him she believed he had been conscientious in making his decision not to grant "further clemency" to the Negroes, who are sentenced to die January 17 for the slaying of a white man.

Sentence Upheld

The Negroes, Charles Trudell and James Lewis, were convicted of murder in connection with the death last February of Harry McKey, Wilkinson County lumberman. The Mississippi Supreme Court upheld the conviction and sentence.

An execution date set for December was stayed by Governor Wright to permit a personal investigation of their case. Last week he interviewed the Negroes in the Woodville, Miss. jail and subsequently announced he did not feel they were entitled to further clemency. Fri. 1-10-47

The present reprieve expires January 17. W. D. Coleman of Natchez, attorney for the Negroes, has said he is seeking action by the United States Supreme Court to save their lives.

Mrs. Meiers issued a written statement after her interview with the governor. It said:

"I visited the governor. His answer is still no. I was treated grand by all with whom I came in contact in Jackson.

"Withhold your criticism of the governor of Mississippi. He is a good man—the law is wrong."

Mrs. Meiers called at the capitol this morning to make an appointment with the governor. The appointment was arranged by the governor's office and she was sent to her hotel in the governor's automobile.

When she returned to the office in the afternoon she remained in conference with him for approximately 30 minutes.

She told newsmen she did not represent any group or organization.

She said she came here "just as a housewife doing an act of charity."

Visited Phoenix

"I had planned a trip to New York to see relatives, so I decided I could just as well go the Southern route, and try to see the governor about the boys," she related. "I called Trudell's sister and told her I was going to do this."

She said she left California January 1, and stopped to visit relatives in Phoenix, Ariz., en route here.

"Now my mission is over," she said. "I don't know how long I have to live. I want no sympathy and I may be in this world a long time yet. I feel my coming here may yet do some good."

Mrs. Meiers said she looks forward to "getting out of all this publicity and getting back to my pots and pans."

Oakland Mother Starts Pilgrimage

PM New York,
Thurs. 1-3-47

Mrs. Blanche Meiers, 55, N.Y. white-haired California mother of eight children, was on a train headed for Jackson, Miss., to plead with Gov. Fielding Wright for the lives of two 14-year-old Negro boys who have been sentenced to die Jan. 17 for the murder of their white employer.

"I expect I'll cry when I see him, then I'll probably dry my tears on his sleeves," she said in an Oakland interview, explaining again that this was her "one important act before I die." PM New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Meiers, wife of a railroad worker, said she was "a great believer in racial equality because God made all of us and we can't criticize his handiwork." Thurs.

She explained again that she was ill of an incurable disease, but that her doctor said it was all right for her to make the trip. She wanted it made clear that she wasn't in any pain and that her pilgrimage wouldn hasten the end. 1-2-47

"I'm only doing what thousands of parents would do under circumstances similar to those under which I am working," she protested. "Oakland is full of mothers who deserve the praise they are giving me."

Mississippi Governor Says 'Isms' After State

The Advertiser
Montgomery Ala

COLUMBIA, MISS., Jan. 7.—(AP)—Forces "boring from within" to disintegrate Americanism have selected Mississippi as the main target for their attack, Gov. Fielding Wright told a large veterans audience here last night.

Ignorance, unemployment and suspicion are tools being used by "isms" in attempts to destroy America, the Governor said, adding that there is an effort being made to destroy Mississippi "regardless of the means necessary to do it." Wed 1-8-47

The Governor cited a movement originating recently in Oakland, Calif., "to interfere with Mississippi judicial matters with specfic attention directed to the cases of two teen-age Woodville, Miss., Negroes sentenced to death in the electric chair."

"Such a campaign is being carried on," he said, "that it doesn't take much proof for these outside forces to become convinced that we haven't culture, sense or decency here in Mississippi. Any time any charge is brought up against Mississippi there's a group of radio commentators and newspapers ready to take up the attack."

Governor To Visit Condemned Negros

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
1-3-47

JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 2.—(AP)—Governor Fielding L. Wright said today he is trying to arrange his schedule to permit a visit Saturday to Woodville to interview two 'teen-age Negroes sentenced to die in the electric chair.

A 30-day reprieve for the pair, convicted of murder in the slaying of a white man, is to expire January 17. The governor granted the reprieve to permit him to make a personal investigation of the case. Fri. 1-3-47

The Negroes, James Lewis, 14, and Charles Trudell, 15, convicted in the pistol death of Harry McKey, Wilkinson County lumberman, are being held in the Woodville jail.

The governor said he would grant an audience to Mrs. Blanche Meiers, Oakland, Cal., mother of eight who is en route here to plead for the lives of the two Negroes.

"I will see her, if she wants an interview," the governor said. "But I think I will have made my decision in the case before she arrives." Fri. 1-3-47

In an interview before leaving Los Angeles yesterday by train, Mrs. Meiers, who said she was ill of an incurable disease, described herself as "a great believer in racial equality."

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2 Boys to Die: Protests Swamp Miss. Governor

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.
Thurs. 1-9-47

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 8. — Gov. Fielding L. Wright said today he has been swamped with telegrams and letters since he decided not to commute the death sentences of two 15-year-old Negroes, Charles Trudel and James Lewis.

Wright admitted "many" of the letters condemned him for his decision. Others agreed that the youths should die for the murder of James McKey of Wilkinson County last Feb. 23, Gov. Wright said.

He said one telegram was a two-word message which said, "you murderer!"

Trudel and Lewis are scheduled to die in the state's portable electric chair on Jan. 17 at Woodville, where they are being held near the scene of the slaying.

Defense attorney W. D. Coleman of Natchez, Miss., has been preparing an appeal to the United States Supreme Court. 1-9-47

London Trade Council Protests Death Sentence of 2 Negro Boys

Daily Worker Thurs 3-6-47
New York N.Y.

LONDON.—The London Trade Council, representing six hundred thousand British unionists, has launched a protest campaign to reverse the death sentence against two Mississippi Negro boys, James Lewis, 15 and Charles Trudell, 16.

The British union members sent a protest to the American embassy in London and appealed to members of Parliament, the Trades Union Congress an the World Federation of Trade Unions to help save the boys lives. Daily Worker

The British Nat'l. League of Young Liberals, supporting the labor protest, passed a resolution "viewing with horror" the death sentence.

Lewis and Trudell were condemned to death by an all-white Mississippi jury on the charge of murdering a white sawmill operator. The boys pleaded not guilty to the charge. Thurs 3-6-47

The two boys were scheduled to be executed last April by a stay of sentence was granted until December 13. Governor Fielding Wright again gave another stay on Dec. 11, until Jan. 17. In the meantime nationwide protests were pouring into his office. New York N.Y.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People provided them counsel, and the Mississippi Supreme Court was petitioned for a stay of execution again. This was for the purpose of appealing their cases to the U. S. Supreme Court. Thurs 3-6-47

Four days before their scheduled deaths the state high court ruled that there were reasonable grounds for an appeal to the nation's first court and the stays of execution were automatic. Thurs 3-6-47

Battle Of Sullivan's Hollow Will Cost Negro 10-Year Term

The News
Birmingham Ala

JACKSON, Miss., May 14—(AP)—Johnny Craft, Negro ex-Marine whose brother was freed last week by the Mississippi Supreme Court, is going to have to serve time for the part he played in the "Battle of Sullivan's Hollow" nine months ago. Wed 5-14-47

The Supreme Court Monday upheld the conviction of Johnny just a week after it absolved W. O Craft.

Johnny was convicted of shooting Wilson Dickerson, a white man acting as a deputy sheriff, the night of Aug. 21, 1946 when four officers attempted to question him concerning a shot fired at a white boy by a Negro.

Johnny was sentenced to serve 10 years.

W. O. Craft had been convicted of wounding another officer the morning of Aug. 22, 1946, after a posse had fired on Negroes fleeing from the Craft home.

THE COURT DREW a distinction between the two cases.

It said the sheriff had no right to arrest or shoot at the Negroes fleeing the Craft home and that the "victim" had a right to respond "with a force of like degree or character." The News

But in the case of Johnny Craft the high court said it found "the officers were employing no force of any degree or character against the appellant, Johnny Craft, at the time he began shooting at Dickerson, nor were they attempting to do any other occupant of the premises any harm at that time, according to testimony of such officers, which the jury had a right to believe, even if it should be conceded that the officers had no right to go to the home on the occasion in question to make an investigation as to who had fired a shot on the highway in the supposed commission of a felony without a warrant for the arrest of any persons in connection therewith." Birmingham

THE "BATTLE OF SULLIVAN'S HOLLOW" began on a Sunday afternoon, Aug. 21, when, according to court testimony, Johnny Craft fired on Ray Sullivan, white youth. Sullivan had "yelled" at Johnny when he was forced to drive his automobile almost off the highway to get around Craft's parked truck. ala.

Testimony at the trial showed four officers went to the Craft home that night to investigate. A gun battle ensued, and four officers withdrew after each had been wounded. The next day a posse surrounded the Craft home and a number of Negroes fled to nearby woods. During the next 24 hours more than a score of Negroes and one white man were arrested. Only one Negro was wounded in the shooting which occurred at the woods. Wed. 5-14-47

Everybody's Wrong But Gov. Wright

P.M.

[illegible] York, N.Y.

Flooded with letters and telegrams urging clemency for two teen-age Negro boys sentenced to die Friday for murder, Gov. Fielding L. Wright of Mississippi angrily invited the rest of the world to mind its own business and leave Mississippi to its own ways.

"These Negroes," said Wright's statement, "are confessed murderers and I have personally interviewed them and satisfied myself that they are competent to realize the seriousness of their crime.

"My patience is now exhausted with outside meddlers and especially so when these outsiders deliberately misrepresent the facts for the purpose of carrying on their campaign of hate and slander against our State and its citizenry. I am serving notice now on these agencies and self-styled 'do gooders' to lay off and attend to the washing of their own dirty linen. We are capable of handling our own affairs and do not need any advice from them." [illegible]-47

Only error in fact that Wright attempted to pin down was the statement that the boys were 13 and 14, respectively. He said one was 16 now and the other will be 16 in August. If it makes any difference.

Condemned

Youths Appeal To High Court

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

WASHINGTON—(NNPA)— Two teen-age lads under sentence of death in Mississippi appealed to the United States Supreme Court last Friday to save them from the electric chair.

They ask the high tribunal to review their conviction and death sentence for the murder of a white man and reverse the judgment of Mississippi courts or order a new trial.

The two boys, James Lewis, 15, and Charles Trudell, 16, were convicted of the murder of Henry McKay, a white farmer of Centreville, Miss., and sentenced to electrocution. Despite their ages, Governor Fielding Wright of Mississippi refused to commute the sentences. Sat. 3-15-47

Attorneys for the two lads, in their petitions for review of the two cases, told the Supreme Court that the convictions were based solely on confessions obtained from Lewis and Trudell under duress, and the constitutional rights of the two boys "have been flagrantly violated."

Three Strikes and He's Still Alive

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 6-14-47

JACKSON, Miss. — "Three strikes" usually puts the batter out. That's the score in the death trials for Sandy Magee of Utica, who has been tried three times for killing Ernest Cohen, a cafe owner. Three times he has been convicted, and three times he has received the death sentence. The third time came last Thursday, but an appeal (the third) is expected to be filed. An all-white jury returned the guilty verdict. Sat. 6-14-47

Mississippi to rid itself legally of 3 Negroes in July

Los Angeles Calif. Tribune Sat. 6-21-47

JACKSON, Miss. — The state of Mississippi will rid itself of three convicted Negro criminals during the month of July in rather severe exactings of justice.

Over criticism of the law by the state supreme court, Clarence Dampier, young Negro robber, will be put to death July 30 for the armed hold-up of W. W. Shannon, white businessman and farmer. The court, in review of Dampier's conviction, while upholding it, criticized the severity of the Mississippi law calling for the death penalty upon conviction of armed robbery. Sat. 6-21-47

Also called unduly severe has been the sentencing to death of two teen-age Negro boys, Charles Trudell and James Lewis, also for the murder of a white man. Following the refusal of the United States Supreme Court to review the case, the Mississippi supreme court here set the date for the boys' execution as July 23.

The case attracted national attention when Gov. Fielding L. Wright, after a visit to the boys' cell, and following a plea for clemency from a white mother who traveled all the way from California, refused to commute the death penalty to life imprisonment.

Teen-Agers Die For Murder, Commit New Ones Over U.S.

Pub: Birmingham Ala.

The Birmingham News

Teen-agers whose knowledge of murder, rape and robbery exceeded their knowledge of readin' and 'rithmetic dominated the nation's crime picture today.

Two Negro boys, one 15, the other 16, were executed last night in Mississippi's electric chair at Woodville for the robbery-slaying of a lumber man. Wed. 7-23-47

Over in Georgia an indictment of assault with intent to commit rape and murder was sought against a 13-year-old Negro boy for an attack on a 60-year-old white woman.

In Sacramento, Calif., a 14-year-old girl told authorities she had been obsessed for a year with a desire to kill after she had been arrested for the blugeoning death of a 10-year-old girl.

Meanwhile, in Santa Ana, Calif., the state sought to complete its evidence against Louise Overell, wealthy, teen-aged heiress, and her husky young, teen-aged lover, George Bud Collum, for the deaths of the girls parents.

Two Negro Boys Die For Robbery Slaying

Birmingham News

Pub. Birmingham Ala

Wed. 7-23-47

WOODVILLE, Miss., July 23—(AP)—Two teen-age Negroes convicted of slaying a white man went to their death early today in Mississippi's portable electric chair.

The first to die was 15-year-old James Lewis. The other was Charles Trudell, 16. Each went to his death calmly, reciting a prayer.

The two youths were convicted in 1946 for the pistol slaying of Harry McKey, a Mississippi lumber man from whom they took $64.

As each youth was seated in the electric chair, he repeated after a Catholic priest the words, "O my God, I am utterly sorry for having offended thee."

A few minutes before the execution, the Rev. Father Patrick Moran told the youths he had decided it would be better for the younger, Lewis, to go to the chair first. The decision had been left to the priests by Sheriff Richard Whitaker. Father Moran explained to the boys that the fatal shot had been fired by Trudell and that the priests felt that the greater punishment would be suffered by the last of the two to go.

The boys had a whole fried chicken apiece for lunch yesterday. A watermelon during the afternoon, and more chicken for dinner last night. Wed. 7-23-47

White Jury Again Rules Death Penalty

Defender

By JOHN LeFLORE

JACKSON, Miss.—An all-white jury last Wednesday again found Charles "Sandy" McGee guilty on charges of murdering a white cafe operator at Utica in 1944 and sentenced him to death for the crime.

McGee was twice previously convicted on the charges but each time the state supreme court reversed the conviction and remanded the case for a new trial. Sat.

Again the chief witness against McGee was T. C. Stokes, another Negro, whose testimony the supreme court, in its second remand, called "doubtful and undependable and unsupported." The high court said that a death penalty should not be inflicted on the basis of such uncertain testimony. 6-21-47

McGee and Ernest Conn, the cafe owner, engaged in a pistol duel outside the latter's restaurant on Sept. 4, 1944. According to defense council the white knocked McGee down and drew his gun. McGee was quicker on the draw and shot Conn first. Stokes has insisted McGee was the aggressor throughout. Chicago, Ill.

Judge Hugh B. Gillespie presided at the most recent trial in Hinds County, a two-day hearing which resulted in the upholding of the original death sentence.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (Missouri)

Negro Pays Penalty For Slaying Waitress

The News Birmingham Ala.

JEFFERSON CITY, Jan. 10—(AP)—Van Lee Ramsey, a Negro, died quickly and quietly early today in the Missouri State Penitentiary's lethal gas chamber for the butcher-knife slaying of a young St. Louis waitress. Fri. 1-10-47

Miss Lena Davidson, a 19-year-old waitress, was brutally killed May 1, 1945, when she tried to defend herself from a robber.

For nearly six weeks after that the robber continued his marauding, always choosing women as his victims. Fri. 1-10-47

In his confession, obtained by police after his capture June 10, Ramsey said he followed a streetcar and when the young woman got off, he accosted her. The News Ala.

Free Cop Who Shot Father Of Seven

Defender Chicago Ill

ST. LOUIS—The grand jury voted a no true bill last week in its investigation of the fatal shooting of Henry Black by a white patrolman, Henry Reed in a darkened alley last Oct. 13. Sat. 12-6-47

Black, father of seven small children and their sole support, was shot in the back of the head, by Officer Reed, when he fled, according to Reed while both were enroute to a call box. The officer had apprehended Black upon seeing him carrying a tattered rug across his shoulder. The rug later was identified as one having been given Black for "junk" by a woman for whom he had done some hauling earlier in the day.

Reed testified at a coroner's hearing that Black knocked him down and fled. He said he shot twice into the air and then fired at his feet. The bullet hit the father in the back of the head and he died instantly. The coroner returned a verdict of justifiable homicide over protests of the local NAACP branch.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (New Mexico)

Negro Is Electrocuted For New Mexico Crime

B'ham, Ala. News Fri. 6-13-47

SANTA FE, N. M., June 13—(AP)—Louis Young, a 47-year-old Negro, died in the electric chair early today for the murder of Mrs. Eloise Kennedy, member of a prominent Denver family.

Still protesting his innocence, he was strapped in the chair at the state penitentiary and the current applied at 12:01 a.m. He was pronounced dead five minutes later.

As he walked slowly into the execution room, Young sang "Oh Lord I Do Not Mind," and sitting in the wooden-prison-made electric chain, he intoned "The Lord Is Behind Me Now."

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (New York)

ALP Bill Would Let Negro Sue State for False Imprisonment

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 2-27-47

Special to the Daily Worker

ALBANY, Feb. 26.—Another "Bertram Campbell" case is in the making with the introduction of a bill in the Legislature today to permit Thomas Oliver, 19-year-old Negro, to start a suit for false imprisonment. The bill was introduced into both Houses by Sen. Kenneth Sherbell and Assemblyman Samuel Kaplan, American Labor Party legislators from Brooklyn.

Oliver was arrested by Manhattan detectives on Oct. 23, 1945 on a charge of assaulting and robbing Mrs. Sophie Wright 70 He was given a 10 to 50 year sentence.

After serving 14½ months m city and state prisons he was released after James B. Campbell, 24, had admitted that he was the guilty person.

Thurs 2-27-47

The Sherbell-Kaplan bill is similar to a measure passed last year in the case of Bertram M. Campbell, Long Island businessman who was convicted of a forgery to which Alexander Thiel, notorious forger, later confessed.

Campbell received $115,000 from the State for false arrest and imprisonment as result of the bill.

THOMAS OLIVER
Another 'Bertram Campbell'

Sherbell and Kaplan both urged passage of their measure "as proof that justice in our state is dispensed without regard to race, color or religion."

Killers Admit, Repent Murder On Death Eve

The Columbia Record

Columbia, S.C.

Thur-8-14-47

By MARK WARREN

Two Negro men from Brooklyn, N. Y., this afternoon gave up all hope of reprieve from death tomorrow morning in the electric chair for a hold-up-slaying last April of a taxi driver near Lancaster, and sent out word to "tell all sinners to change your ways before its too late."

"Sure we did it," said Leonard Arthur Pringle, 25, of (204 West 118th street) New York City, tellin of the stabbing death of Willie Reid, a Lancaster taxi driver, who was stabbed to death in Chester county last April 15.

"We planned it."

Pringle added, however, that they did not know Reid personally, the man they picked out to rob and kill. The robbery netted $180 and the stolen cab. Reid was buried.

"Meant To Get Caught"

"Don't do anything—for it will be found out," said Pringle of evildoers. "If a man doesn't know—God will." Thur-8-14-47

Pringle said that both he and his partner, Ernest Willis, 26, of (817-19 East 178th street), New York City, were guilty as far as killing Reid was concern. Willis, who was present to hear that remark, did not dispute the statement.

"After the killing, everything we did went wrong," Pringle said, "God meant for us to get caught. I'm thankful we were, I would just have been worse than I am."

Born In New York

"I was born in New York," Pringle said.

Willis said that he was born in Sumter county but had lived in New York City since he was a small boy. Thur. 8-14-47

Pringle and Willis said they had known each other for the past ten months. They said they met in New York, and took a construction job near Lancaster.

In the cell next to Pringle, Willis said that when the question of a trial arose in connection with the murder of the cabman, "I just couldn't tell a lie. I was so used to telling the truth, that I made a statement of just what happened. God meant it just that way."

Willis sair he wanted to urge everyone to accept "Jesus Christ as your Savior, and live according to the law. God has set forth the laws for man to live by."

Acceptance of the law and of Christ, Willis continued,

"Will make our lives much brighter,
Our worries much lighter."

Both men said they were awaiting final baptism at the prison today.

They will eat their final meals tonight. Thur-8-14-47

Capt. R. Fuller Goodman told the condemned pair they could eat as much as they desired for their final supper.

Willis, who is married, is the father of two little girls, one six and the other not quite four.

Pringle is married and has a four-year-old son, Ronald Pringle.

Pringle To Die First

The younger of the two men, Pringle, is scheduled to die first, although no particular reason has been assigned for the order of death.

The first of the executions will start at 7 a. m., followed immediately by the second one.

Write Final Letters

Both men have had visitors at their cells today.

Each was busy writing letters, and both handed some out to Captain Goodman for mailing.

Despite the outlook of only a few shortening hours of life ahead, each was calm—much calmer than some who viewed them from the opposite side of the bars.

Pringle was in the cell which was once occupied by Cleve Covington of Clio, a "strong man" whose hands bent the mighty steel bars.

Pringle, however, a former dance band orchestra drummer, was not the type to be able to bend any steel bar such as the Clio man could. Thur-8-14-47

Tried Before Gaston

The two men were tried in court at Chester and were convicted by a jury and sentenced July 10 by Judge Arthur Lee Gaston.

They said they did not take the stand, but that each had made a statement as to the crime and how it transpired.

They were brought to prison here the last of the month and transferred to the death house 20 days before tomorrow, as scheduled under the rules governing executions.

Pringle was a next door cell companion of another condemned man, Willie Pooler, 19, of Darlington county, who died August 1 for the criminal assault last May upon a 67-year-old grandmother.

Unless a last minute stay is granted, the two men will die as per schedule in the morning.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (New York--Ward Beecher Caraway)

Court Upholds 2 Death Edicts

PM

New York, N.Y.

The death sentence of Ward Beecher Caraway, 22-year-old butler, for the holdup murder of Long Island socialite Mrs. Majorie Church Logan last July 24, was unanimously upheld yesterday by the Court of Appeals.

The court also affirmed the death sentence for Willie James Thomas, 20, who on Dec. 8 got life for a holdup murder committed Oct. 28 and three days later was sentenced to the chair for the murder Oct. 31 of Patrolman John E. Bussey.

Unless Governor Dewey intervenes, Thomas will be electrocuted June 26 and Caraway July 3, both at Sing Sing. Fri 5-16-47

Slayer-Butler Executed

St. Louis, Mo. Argus

OSSINING, N. Y. (ANP)—Before going to his death in the electric chair at Sing Sing Prison last Thursday night, Ward Beecher Caraway, 22 years old, told prison attendants that narcotics were the cause of his downfall.

Fri. 7-11-47

He was put to death for the murder of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan in her home at Flower Hill, Long Island, July 24, last. After shooting Mrs. Logan, Caraway, a butler-chauffeur on a neighboring estate, shot and attacked Miss Marjory Jeanne Logan, Mrs. Logan's daughter. Fri. 7-11-47

Murmurs Prayer
Afro-American
# in Gas Chamber

N.C. Slayer Pleads
Baltimore, Md.
Innocence Until End
Sat. 5-31-47

RALEIGH, N.C.—A prayer on his lips, Ben Frank McLeod, 27 paid with his life in the gas chamber here Saturday for the slaying of an Indian family of three, who were shot and then burned in a flaming farm house.

Pleading his innocence until the end, McLeod, a 200-pound, muscular man, after being placed in the death house, murmured softly, "God will take care of everything."

He began inhaling the lethal fumes two minutes after he took his seat in the chamber and was pronounced dead 13 minutes later.

Young Children Survive

He leaves two children, less than six years old, prison authorities said. J. D. Lockey, Scotland County farmer, said McLeod could keep a tin can rolling down the road with the rifle the State charged he used in the killings.

The supreme penalty followed his conviction in the deaths of Mr and Mrs. Henry T. Lowery and their son. Sat. 5-31-47

He was visited by his mother and wife Tuesday. They returned Saturday to claim his body which was carried away by a Laurinburg undertaker.

NO WORD FROM FATHER:

N. C. Youth Dies in
Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
Gas Chamber Calmly
Sat. 4-12-47

RALEIGH, N.C.—Broken-hearted because his father did not keep his promise to visit him, 24-year-old Richard Horton of Wilkes County paid for the murder of a taxicab driver in the gas chamber of the Central Prison here on Friday.

Describing how Horton sat on his bunk and cried Thursday night when he realized that his father was not coming, Prison Chaplain H. R. Jackson said that he felt certain that only lack of money kept the father away and that if he had known he would have arranged the trip.

Horton, the chaplain said, "had set his heart on a visit from his father," and could not understand his absence, saying, "If Mama was living, I know she would've come to see me."

Relatively Calm

But despite the upset the night before, Horton entered the death chamber calmly shortly before 10 o'clock, evidencing nervousness only as the attendants prepared for his execution.

His last conscious act before the deadly cyanide was released was to grope for the hand of the chaplain, who had patted his just after the death mask was placed over his face. The chaplain had left, however, and he settled back in his chair. Sat. 4-12-47

While not a particularly difficult execution, it did have its effect upon one witness, Reginald Gowan of Charlotte, a junior law student, who fainted and was revived, but became sick again and had to leave the room.

Career Probably Affected

The impression left on Gowan was so strong, however, that he declared later, "I know now that I'll never practice criminal law."

He had been in Warden Hugh Wilson's office around time for the execution, and the warden had suggested that witnessing it might be helpful in the research project which Gowan was undertaking.

The third to die by gas in the State this year, Horton, whose body was not claimed immediately, was convicted of having murdered Francis Baker, 26, of North Wilksboro rather than pay his $4.50 taxicab fare.

The victim's brother, Alvin Baker, and five others came to the prison before the execution but were refused permission to witness it and forced to wait outside the gates until it was over.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (Pennsylvania)

The Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Innocent Man Must Stay in Jail

Sat. 8-2-47

PHILADELPHIA (ANP) — Frank Harris, 49, who won a commutation of sentence July 7 after serving 21 years for a murder he did not commit, will have to remain indefinitely in Eastern penitentiary as the result of an unexpected ruling Tuesday by the state parole board at Harrisburg.

Henry C. Hill, board chairman, announced that the "parole plan" submitted by the innocent prisoner had been rejected, and that his release from prison would be delayed until he submitted a "auitable plan." Sat.-8-2-47

Explaining that a prisoner must have a suitable job, home and sponsor before he may be released Hill asserted that Harris' plan had come from the board's Philadelphia office "with an unfavorable recommendation." Harris formerly lived in South Philadelphia's tenderlion section. Sat. 8-2-47

"The job Harris proposed to accept was not considered adequate and the home where he planned to live was objectionable," the board chairman declared. He would not disclose further details, but said, however, that the sponsor selected for Harris was "all right."

Okla. City, Okla.

Gov. James H. Duff granted Harris commutation July 7 on recommendation of the state parole board. It had been expected that the prisoner would be released later that same week, since his papers were given immediately to parole officers for processing.

The day after Gov. Duff's action, State Sen. John W. Lord Jr. Republican, of the Chestnut Hill-Germantown district, announced that he would introduce a bill at the next session of the legislature to compensate Harris for the time he spent in prison Sat. 8-2-47

The pardon board's recommendation was made after a Philadelphia attorney, Herbert L. Marris became interested in the case and with the aid of Det. Lt. George Spangler, head of the police ballistics department, proved that the bullet which killed Wilbert McQueen, a companion of Harris could not have been fired from the weapon Harris was carrying.

The innocent man was convicted by a quarter sessions court jury in September, 1926, for the killing of McQueen in South Philadelphia in March of the same year. Okla. City, Okla.

McQueen died in Pennsylvania hospital after being shot in the chest while he and Harris were being questioned by two policemen. At the time, Harris was carrying a .38 calibre revolver. It was testified at the trial that Harris broke away from one of the officers while being taken to a patrol. McQueen, who was in the line of fire, was mortally wounded in a fusillade of shots which followed. Harris was also wounded in the scuffle.

Maris, a white corporation lawyer who said he became interestetd in Harris' case as a hobby, finally proved Harris innocent after 15 months of painstaking research. After checking with firearms firms, he showed that no metal-jacket bullet to fit Harris' gun existed in 1926. Sat-8-2-47

Maris clinched his argument by showing that the metal-jacketed slug which killed McQueen was 1 8/16 inches long, and thus would not fit Harris' gun, which took bullets 1 3/16 inches long.

14c 1947

Legal Sentence (Philippines)

PVT. WOODS

Lemas Woods' Sentence Cut

(14c) L. Sent (Phil [illegible]

Daily Worker

DETROIT, Oct. 14.—Gen. Mark Clark, commander of the 5th Army, this week reduced the sentence of Private Lemas Woods, Jr., Detroit GI from three years to eighteen months, it was announced today by the Lemas Woods Defense Committee of the Civil Rights Congress.

10-15-47

Mass protests by unions and progressive organizations had brought about a second court-martial in San Francisco last July, as the result of which Woods was saved from the gallows to which he had been sentenced after being found guilty of murder by a hurried court-martial in Manila in 1946. However, he was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, sentenced to three years at hard labor, and ordered dishonorably discharged.

N.Y. N.Y.

The case now will go to the Army Board of Review in Washington, where Ernest Goodman, Detroit labor attorney, will continue his efforts in behalf of the 24-year-old Negro soldier.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (Philippine Islands)

Case of GI Snatched From Gallows Shows Need for Court-Martial Reform

PM Mon. 7-28-47 New York N.Y.

SAN FRANCISCO

Lemas Woods, Jr., Negro GI who is being retried by an Army court-martial here on a charge of murder, probably would have been a dead man, hanged in disgrace and buried in an ignominious grave, if it weren't for the fact that both he and his father are members of the United Auto Workers of America, CIO, in Detroit. No matter what the outcome of the present trial may be, it is certain that young Woods was rushed through a farcical trial last year at a Manila Army camp in the Philippines and sentenced to death for the shooting of his friend and tent-mate which Woods insists—with impressive supporting evidence—was accidental.

Deutsch

The Woods trial at the Presidio before a nine-man Army court, headed by Brig. Gen. Robin Pape of the Sixth Army Command, resumes today after a week's postponement granted at the opening day of the trial to give the attorneys on both sides a chance to examine the 22 witnesses brought here from many parts of the country, and from Japan and the Philippines. Most witnesses are ex-soldiers who served with Woods' all-Negro regiment in the Philippines.

Has Already Spent 16 Months in Army Brigs

Mon. 7-28-4

Even if Woods is acquitted of the murder charge—as I believe he will be—nothing can be done to recapture for him the 16 miserable months he has wasted in Army jails, much of it in the shadow of the gallows, much of it in solitary confinement.

It took a Presidential order, reversing the approving decision of the Army Reviewing Board in Washington, to give him another chance for his life, so callously and indifferently handled at the three-hour court-martial in Manila more than a year ago. When I asked Woods the other day why he thought he had been so summarily doomed the first time, he answered simply:

"I guess they figured I was just another 'nigger,' and that a 'nigger's' life ain't worth bothering about."

Mon. 7-28-47

These facts seem to be clearly established about that first trial in Manila:

¶ The Woods "confession," which played a determining role in the Army court's guilty verdict, is self-contradictory in several vital respects. Woods insists that it was coerced from him by agents of the Army Criminal Investigation Division.

¶ The young lieutenant who served as trial judge advocate, or prosecutor, in the first Woods trial later told me, and then President Truman, that he didn't believe the evidence justified a guilty verdict against the Negro GI.

¶ The young lieutenant who was assigned to defend Woods, and who saw him only once, briefly, before the youth went on trial for his life, later told me that he should never have been chosen for this role in a trial involving the death penalty, since he had no legal experience and didn't know how to handle such a case. (Both men will testify at the present trial.)

¶ The testimony of the key witness against Woods was contradictory in important respects.

Vital Evidence Strangely Suppressed at Trial

Mon. 7-28-47

¶ The most important item of material evidence in the case—the mosquito netting which hung over the bed of Pvt. Robert Patterson at the time a shot from Woods' gun killed him as he lay asleep—was never introduced by either side at the trial.

The netting was vital because the key witness against Woods claimed he saw Woods lift the netting, roll Patterson over, and then deliberately shoot him. Woods, on the other hand, claimed that the shot was accidentally fired as he was cleaning his gun some distance from Patterson's tent. If Woods did lift the netting, there should be no bullet hole in it. A coroner's examination before the trial showed there was a bullet hole in the net, tending to substantiate Woods' version of the incident.

Mon 7-28-47

Ernest Goodman, civilian defense counsel in the Presidio court-martial, is expected to lay heavy stress on the bullet-hole in the netting. Woods' father got Goodman, a Detroit labor lawyer, to look into the case after the first trial. It was Goodman's investigation that led to the new trial.

The circumstances of that first Woods trial afford overwhelming proof that the Army court-martial, as traditionally set up, does not give the enlisted man surety of a square and fair trial, even when his very life is involved. Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall has himself admitted the need for more reform in court-martial procedure. The House Committee on Armed Services, which recently completed an intensive survey of Army justice, has recommended sweeping reforms in the whole system.

These reforms should be incorporated into law. The American in the armed forces deserves the same quality of justice as the American in civilian life.

Range of Fatal Bullet, Debated At Retrial of Pvt. Lemas Woods

SAN FRANCISCO

Dr. Bray O. Hawk, of Canton, O., the Army pathologist who performed the autopsy in Manila on Pfc. Thomas Patterson after the latter was killed by a bullet from a .45 caliber gun of Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., in an Army camp tent, and Thomas M. Baty, head of the criminal investigation laboratory in Manila who examined the mosquito netting that hung over Patterson's cot at the time of the shooting, were closely questioned at the Presidio court-martial here yesterday as to the probable distance of the gun muzzle from the victim's body when the fatal shot was fired.

Deutsch

The big point of today's testimony hinged on these questions:

¶ Was the skin of Patterson's arm (where the bullet entered before piercing the victim's heart and lodging in his back) burned by the muzzle blast of the gun? If it was it would indicate that the shot was fired at very close range, possibly within two inches.

¶ Was Pfc. Patterson asleep or awake when he was shot?

The Army prosecutor at the court-martial, Capt. Arnold C. Eger, has set out to prove that Woods deliberately walked over to the cot of his sleeping tentmate, Patterson, shook his arm and rolled him over, then fired. The defense position is that Woods was standing some distance from his friend's cot, cleaning a speck of lint from his gun, when it accidentally went off, fatally wounding the sleeping soldier.

Wed. 7/30/47

Six Hours Spent on One Point; Entire Original Trial Lasted Three Hours

The two prosecution witnesses spent a total of six hours on the stand developing the one point of the gun's distance from the body, going into painstaking detail, in sharp contrast to the speed with which Woods was rushed to a death-sentence in a three-hour court-martial in Manila. It is significant, too, that the testimony of Dr. Hawk, a youthful physician now in private practice in Canton, was accepted without question at the original trial, whereas his competency as an expert was successfully challenged by the defense at this one. Dr. Hawk, upon questioning by civilian defense counsel, Ernest Goodman, readily admitted that he could not qualify as an expert in medico-legal matters such as are involved in this case.

Dr. Hawk expressed the opinion there that the tissue surrounding the bullet wound at the point of entry was burned, although he admitted that he had not made the routine scientific tests—microscopic examination and chemical analysis—of the tissue usual in autopsies involving the suspicion of murder.

Baty, an Australian criminologist who headed a criminal investigation laboratory in the Queensland Police Dept. before he was employed by the U. S. Army as a civilian aide in Manila and later in Tokyo, was brought here from Japan as a defense witness. He now heads a criminal investigation laboratory for the 8th Army stationed in Tokyo. Asked a hypothetical question by the Army prosecutor, Capt. Eger, Baty expressed the opinion that burns caused by muzzle blast on the skin surface surrounding a bullet would indicate that the shot was fired within very close range, probably within two inches. The defense contends that Dr. Hawk's belief that the skin was burned is based on insufficient evidence, and stresses the point that the doctor is admittedly not a qualified expert.

Court Impartiality Assures Woods a Fair Trial

Wed. 7/30/47

An outstanding feature of this trial at the 6th Army Headquarters is the eminent fairness of both the court and the prosecution. Col. Joel B. Olmsted, law member of the eight-man court hearing the case, impressed one by his judicial attitude and at times seems to bend over backward in sustaining objections voiced by defense counsel. Capt. Eger, the prosecutor, who was formerly a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, is bent on presenting the strongest possible case against Woods, but on the other hand seems to be aware of the fact that a man's life is at stake, and has shown a commendable restraint.

Would that all murder cases, military or civil, were tried in the same atmosphere of truth-seeking that is so manifest here.

I regret that other commitments make it necessary for me to drop personal coverage of the Lemas Woods trial with this dispatch. PM has arranged for special news coverage of the trial, which probably will extend through two weeks or more. I am gratified that justice has been done in erasing the shocking procedure and verdict of the original trial through the intercession of President Truman, and I am convinced that the verdict in the present trial, whatever it be, will be a fair and impartial one.

Fair Retrial of Lemas Woods Ends In Involuntary Manslaughter Verdict

~~Post~~ N.Y., N.Y.

PM New York, N.Y.

(Albert Deutsch interrupted his vacation to write this special column on the Lemas Woods, Jr., case, which ended yesterday. Deutsch brought the case of the Negro GI to public attention last October with a series of PM articles charging that the soldier had been railroaded to a death sentence at a shockingly unfair court-martial in Manila. His series was instrumental in winning a new trial for the condemned youth, by specific order of President Truman.—Ed.)

Deutsch

The long ordeal of Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., was climaxed yesterday when a military court at the Presidio in San Francisco convicted him of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced him to three years' imprisonment at hard labor. While the verdict does not clear the slate of the 23-year-old former Detroit auto worker, it does definitely remove him from the shadow of the gallows in which he stood for 16 excruciating months. The verdict, too, is an eloquent repudiation of the Manila court-martial which callously railroaded the youth to a hanging sentence in May, 1946, after a three-hour hearing. Fri. 8-8-47

Manslaughter Sentence Not Out of Line

While one might have hoped for an acquittal, in the light of the injustice done Pvt. Woods and the intense suffering he has already experienced, it must be said that the military court's verdict yesterday was not out of line with the essential facts.

This writer has always believed, since first reading the documents in the case and interviewing key participants, that Woods was innocent of the charge of wilful, deliberate and malicious murder of his friend and tentmate, Pfc. Thomas Patterson, who was fatally shot by a bullet from Woods' gun in an all-Negro Manila Army camp Mar. 23, 1946. Woods never denied having shot Patterson; he said the gun went off accidentally as he was cleaning it. The pertinent evidence, suppressed and ignored at the original trial, overwhelmingly supported his version.

The fact remains, however, that:

¶ Woods was violating the rules in handling the gun at the time.

¶ There was obviously an element of gross carelessness in cleaning a loaded gun.

A verdict of involuntary manslaughter—so different from deliberate murder—appears justifiable under the circumstances. Before I left the San Francisco courtroom last week, I had assured myself that Lemas Woods was getting a fair trial this time. The verdict confirms that personal impression.

Case Proves Need for Reform Of Army Court Martial System

The most significant aspect of the case of Lemas Woods is its dramatic condemnation of the traditional system of military justice. Lemas Woods, *in peacetime*, came very close to having his life snuffed out by a hangman's noose as a result of a trial that mocked the name of justice. A confused confession was drawn from him under very suspicious circumstances. He was assigned a defense counsel who admittedly didn't know what the case was about and couldn't find out in the brief time spent with the defendant the day prior to the murder trial. Vital evidence confirming Woods' story was deliberately suppressed. The hearing leading to the guilty verdict was held in a casual atmosphere and was rushed to conclusion as though a trivial issue were at stake, instead of an American soldier's life. Woods certainly would have died if it were not for a set of fortuitous circumstances that brought civilian interest to his case and resulted finally in a Presidential reversal of the original death sentence.

Civilian activity proved the vital factor in saving Woods' life. The existing Army court-martial system had made possible the shocking sequence that almost lost that life. Fri. 8-8-47

It is a significant index to the failure of that system in wartime that a civilian clemency board appointed by the President found it advisable to reduce the sentences in 80 per cent of the prison terms meted out to American soldiers during World War II. Nobody will never know how many of those soldiers were unjustly convicted in the first place. Mitigation of punishment is not true justice to an innocent man falsely condemned.

It must not happen again. The Lemas Woodses, white or black, must be spared the possibility of unjustly facing death through farcical military trials. Reform should be immediate, and drastic.

I hope that the Army Reviewing Board, when considering the three-year sentence meted out to Woods yesterday, will see fit to erase it as a token gesture of a new attitude. The 16 months of extreme suffering, mostly in solitary confinement, would seem sufficient punishment for the careless but not murderous GI. The penalty, the maximum for involuntary manslaughter, seems harsh, though the trial itself was eminently fair. Would that all future courts-martial were as fair.

Vital Mosquito Net Introduced At Retrial of Negr GI for Murder

Tues. 7-29-47

SAN FRANCISCO

The fate of Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., once snatched from the shadow of the gallows by Presidential order, now rests mainly on the final determination of a number of technical questions which will tell whether the killing of his tent-mate and friend, Pfc. Robert Patterson, in a Manila army camp last year was deliberate murder or a tragic accident.

Deutsch

The first full day of the Woods court-martial at the Presidio, headquarters of the 6th Army Command, was highlighted by testimony of an ex-sergeant in Woods' company who identified a bullet-hole in the mosquito bar hanging over the cot where Patterson lay asleep at the time of the fatal shooting. Testifying out of turn for the defense shortly after the prosecution put its first witness on the stand, Jack S. Waddy, of Texas, told the Army court that he had run to the tent of Patterson and Woods after the shooting occurred, and had pointed out to other soldiers the bullet-hole in Patterson's mosquito net.

This testimony apparently conflicts with the statement of the prosecution's chief witness at the original court-martial in Manila that Woods' had lifted up Patterson's net and then fired the fatal shot.

For a reason as yet undisclosed, the very important mosquito net was never introduced at the first trial which ended in a death-sentence for Woods. Waddy, who was allowed to break into the prosecution's case yesterday to allow him to rush home to a seriously sick wife, was never called as a witness at the first trial.

Slant of Sun, Position of Tents Are Important Factors

Tues 7-29-4

The opening hours of the new trial yesterday had many of the dramatic elements so dear to orthodox murder mysteries. A four-foot sketch of the Manila camp area was pinned up in the courtroom. The first witness called by the prosecution, Robert L. Wilson, of New York, an ex-lieutenant who served as executive officer of Woods' all-Negro detachment at the time of the shooting, was closely questioned and cross-examined on the slant of the sun when the shot was fired and also the time of the sun's rising on that day.

The questions were aimed primarily to test the validity of witnesses who will testify to what they saw and heard at various distances when the incident took place at 7 o'clock of the morning of Mar. 23, 1946. Distances between the tents at the camp were sedulously studied by the court-martial, headed by Brig. Gen. Robin Pape.

The nine-man court-martial was reduced to eight this morning when the civilian defense counsel, Ernest Goodman, CIO Auto Workers Union lawyer of Detroit, peremptorily challenged Col. Charles G. Rau, who was immediately excused by Pape and left the courtroom. Each side was entitled to a single peremptory challenge, and that of Rau was not explained.

Ex-Leader of Philippines Underground Is Assistant Defense Counsel

Carlos Ramos, slight, 32-year-old head of the Philippines Lawyers Guild, who was active in uncovering much of the new evidence to be introduced by the defense at this trial, took his place as an assistant defense counsel yesterday. Ramos was a lieutenant in the U. S. Army during the war, participated in the defense of Bataan and the famous death-march, and later led the free Philippines underground movement during the Japanese occupation. Tues 7-29-47

Both prosecution and defense counsels made brief opening statements before the witnesses appeared. Capt. Arnold G. Eger, trial judge advocate, said the prosecution would attempt to prove that the shooting was the result of "malice aforethought" and constituted murder. Goodman pointed out the paucity of available facts presented at the first trial, and expressed confidence in the defense's ability to prove the incident was the result of accident.

"If the 20-odd witnesses brought here from all parts of the world were permitted to testify at the original Manila trial, where they were readily available," Goodman observed, "there probably would have been no need for this costly second trial we are holding."

Sat. 8-9-47

TRIAL PRINCIPALS.—Key figures in the new trial for Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., left, are Woods himself, and Atty. Carlos P. Ramos, right, of the Philippines, an important witness for Woods.—Joseph Photos.

Coast Retrial Starts for Lemas Woods, Negro GI Saved From Gallows

PM New York, N.Y. Tues: 7-22-47

SAN FRANCISCO

The new Army trial ordered by President Truman for Lemas Woods, Jr., 23-year-old soldier, opened yesterday at the Presidio, beautiful headquarters of the 6th Army Command here, in a setting far different from that of the three-hour court-martial in the Philippines last year which resulted in his being condemned to hang for killing his friend and tentmate, Pvt. Robert Patterson, in a Manila Army camp.

Deutsch

A nine-man general court appointed by Gen. Mark Clark, 6th Army Commander, is hearing the case in a special courtroom open to press and public. The court is heavy with brass; the presiding officer at the trial is Brig. Gen. Robin B. Paper, veteran of the India-Ceylon theater, who is flanked by five full colonels, a lieutenant-colonel and two lieutenants. One of the latter, Lt. Seth B. Finley, formerly a school teacher at Niles, Mich., is a Negro. Tues. 7-22-47

Woods is assured a fair trial this time. It will be recalled that the young Negro was sentenced to die in May, 1946, after fatally shooting Pvt. Patterson in the tent they shared. Except for a signed confession, which Woods says was extorted from him by force by agents of the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, the defendant has persistently stated that the shot was fired accidentally while he was cleaning a gun. In spite of shocking evidence of railroading at the original court-martial, the death sentence was approved by an Army reviewing board in Washington, but was later upset by Presidential order. The Army now seems to be bending over backward to insure a fair trial for the youth.

Battery of Good Lawyers Will Defend Him

In place of a callow 25-year-old lieutenant who defended him in Manila without any previous legal training (he is now a Coca-Cola salesman in California) only a day after he saw the accused soldier for the first time, Woods' defense at the Presidio will be headed by an experienced civilian lawyer, Ernest Goodman, of Detroit, who successfully fought for the new hearing.

Assisting Goodman will be two Army officers—Maj. Evans C. Bunker, a former Seattle lawyer, and Capt. John A. McLaughlin, who was a Kansas City lawyer before he entered the Army.

Capt. Arnold G. Eger, a former law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, is the trial Judge Advocate or prosecutor.

Only two witnesses testified at the original trial which ended in a death sentence at Manila. For this trial 22 witnesses have been subpenaed and brought here from 16 different states, the Philippines and Japan. It is an interesting commentary on the old court-martial system that most of these witnesses who have been gathered here from widely distant places were available in Manila at the time of the first trial, but were never called.

The proceedings yesterday took only a half hour. The trial was formally opened, the witnesses ushered in, and then postponed until Monday, July 28, to afford both defense and prosecution attorneys to question the assembled witnesses.

Father and Son Break Into Tears at First Meeting

Present at the San Francisco trial was the GI's father, Lemas Woods, Sr., 46, who, like his son, is a member of the United Auto Workers, CIO, in Detroit, which is helping to finance the defense. A touching scene took place after court was adjourned when father and son, who hadn't seen each other for nearly two years, embraced. Both men broke into tears. Tues. 7-22-47

I visited young Woods in the Presidio guardhouse after the brief court-martial proceedings. He expressed absolute confidence that this trial will end in acquittal.

"I am innocent, and this time will be given a chance to prove it" he said. "Robert Patterson was my friend. We never had a quarrel, and I'd never kill him for the world. It was a horrible accident."

Woods was given some rough treatment in the guardhouse when he was first brought here from the Manila stockade. He was placed in solitary confinement, shackled to a guard at meal times and during exercise periods and otherwise handled like a soldier under death sentence rather than as a prisoner awaiting new trial. His treatment was improved considerably after protests by his counsel, Maj. Bunker and Mr. Goodman.

It is expected that the trial will consume at least a week after it is resumed next Monday.

Filipino Lawyer Volunteers Aid In Defense of Doomed Negro

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

Special to the Daily Worker

DETROIT, July 13.—Carlos Ramos, veteran of the Bataan Death March, now secretary of the Philippine Lawyers Guild, said here this week that he will assist labor attorney Ernest Goodman in San Francisco on July 21 in the defense of Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr.

Lemas Woods, Jr., is the Negro GI who was held on a murder charge and forced by third degree methods to sign a confession that he shot his tent mate in the Philippines. At Woods' court-martial, which lasted three hours, he was judged guilty principally on the basis of this confession obtained under duress and sentenced to be hanged. Mon. 7-14-47

The Michigan Civil Rights Congress, together with the UAW-CIO, of which Woods is a member, took up the case and showed the contradictory character of the evidence and won a new trial after a review of the case by President Truman.

Woods has been in prison more than a year. Early in April, 1947, he was returned to the United States and held in the Presidio at San Francisco in solitary confinement.

Carlos Ramos, Philippine lawyer, leader of the underground, found Lemas Woods, Jr., in a stockade in Death Row awaiting execution.

Ramos said that the Filipino people were watching the Lemas Woods case with great interest. Mon. 7-14-47

The Manila lawyer told of his induction into the U. S. Army in '41 and his service with the Judge Advocate's office until his capture at Bataan, when he joined the 50,000 Filipino soldiers who made the Death March with the Americans.

He will appear beside Lemas Woods, Jr., when the trial opens in San Francisco July 21. The UAW has given $1,000 to aid the defense and George F. Addes, UAW secretary-treasurer, along with Rev. Timberlake, are the joint chairmen of the Defense Committee.

Says Philippine People Watch Lemas Wood Case

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y. Wed. 7-23-47

The Philippine people are watching the case of Private Lemas Woods with great interest, according to Carlos Ramos, executive secretary of the Philippine Islands Lawyers Guild. Ramos arrived at LaGuardia Field Monday, en route to San Francisco where the new trial of the GI charged with killing his tentmate was due to begin the same day.

Ramos is a Manila lawyer. He entered the U. S. Army soon after completing law studies at the University of the Philippines. Captured at Bataan, he took part in the historic Death March, and was released after four months in a concentration camp. He became executive secretary of the Free Philippine Underground, and was assigned to work on the Lemas Woods case after he became associated with the Lawyers Guild.

Ramos discovered Woods in a stockade in "Death Row" awaiting execution. After conferring with him, he interviewed other witnesses and inspected the scene of the alleged crime. Woods had been charged with deliberately killing his tent mate but Ramos found sufficient evidence to convince him that the shooting was completely accidental. When he entered the case, it was being reviewed by the commanding general of the area, who upheld the death sentence. When the case reached President Truman, however, the death sentence was set aside, and Woods was granted a new trial, largely as a result of the new evidence Ramos had uncovered. Wed. 7-23-47

"The particular interest of our Guild in this case," said Ramos, "is that it is one of the cases we have taken under our free legal service. This service is granted to anyone, regardless of nationality, race or religion, if the issues on their cases involve civil liberties or rampant injustice. We maintain this policy in the hope that Filipinos in other countries will be granted similar treatment in like cases."

Woods Says He Was Beaten To Get Murder Confession

PM Sun. 8/3/47

SAN FRANCISCO

Pvt. Lemas Woods testified in his own defense in his second court-martial for murder that Army Criminal Investigation agents beat him when they were taking a statement from him at Bilibid Prison in Manila. New York, N.Y.

Woods was convicted of shooting his tentmate, Pfc. Thomas Patterson, in the first three-hour trial 16 months ago, but a new trial was ordered by the War Dept. when President Truman disapproved of the sentence. Liberal groups charged he had been "railroaded" in a "quickie" trial.

Woods said he was held for three

days in a cell in Bilibid Prison. Army Agent John S. Walls took him to Criminal Investigation offices where he was asked to write a statement, Woods said. Walls read it and tore it up, Woods said, remarking: "This isn't the statement we want."

He said Walls struck him in the stomach, doubling him up, and grabbed his wrist and twisted his hand back while another agent, Omer S. Bowen, hit him in the back. Sun. 8/3/47

"They then told me to start talking and talking fast," Woods said. "They wrote a statement and I signed it."

Testimony Heightens Hope for Doomed GI

Courier - Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat-8-9-47

Fair Trial Guaranteed Soldier Previously Sentenced to Hang

SAN FRANCISCO—Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., Detroit soldier, who was sentenced to hang for the death of a tentmate in the Philippines, was several steps nearer a new grasp on life this week. In the retrial granted by Presidential decree his counsel refuted the testimony of John Hicks whose words had caused Woods to be convicted by an Army general court-martial in 1946.

With a brigadier general as the ranking officer and a Negro first lieutenant as a member of the court, the Army was bending over backwards to guarantee the 24-year-old Detroiter a fair trial. This was in direct contrast to the trial in 1946 when Woods was tried and convicted in only three and one half hours by a court-martial board which was later charged with not giving him a fair trial.

The defense also hogtied the testimony taking of the CID (Criminal Division), whose agents were unable to testify with positiveness about the statements which had allegedly been given to them by young Woods. Their confusing statements gave rise to doubts as to their accuracy.

STORY REFUTED Sat-8-9-47

It was brought out during the trial that the act of slaying Robert Patterson in 1946 was allegedly performed by Woods, who according to Hicks, lifted a mosquito netting and shot Patterson through the head. The defense introduced the netting into evidence and showed that the bullet holes in the net refuted Hicks' story that Woods had lifted the net and shot Patterson.

Woods claimed that he was cleaning his gun when it accidentally went off sending a bullet into the body of Patterson who was sleeping in their tent.

The present trial was granted aft : strong intercession had been made to President Truman. Wood's lawyers from a crack battery headed by Ernest Goodman, Detroit attorney and labor lawyer.

With Mr. Goodman are Army-appointed Major E. C. Bunker, former Seattle lawyer; Captain John A. McLoughlin, former Kansas City attorney, and Carlos Ramos, Philippines lawyer who flew back here from the International Lawyers Conference in Brussels to be on hand when the new trial opened.

The Civil Rights Congress and the Detroit CIC Auto Workers Union, of which Woods was a pre-war member, sponsored the gaining of a new trial for the condemned ex-GI. Sat-8-9-47

Showing the tempo of the new trial a Southerner, Colonel Charles G. Rau, was challenged by the defense and was immediately excused by Brigadier General Robin B. Pape who is presiding over the trial .Defense counsel expressed optimism in their belief that Woods would be freed on the basis of the lack of weight of the testimony as it is now being offered.

By Albert Deutsch

Drastic Reforms in Army Justice Ordered by Secretary Royall

P.M.

New York, N.Y.

Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall, in a laudable move to check such miscarriages of military justice as occurred with shocking frequency during World War II, has issued an order for sweeping reform of court-martial procedure while awaiting more comprehensive action by Congress. The new Secretary's order will certainly help avert such cases as the first court martial of Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., which sentenced the Negro GI to hang for a shooting which was declared to be accidental after a second, and fairer trial.

Deutsch

Royall's official order, directed to all Army and Air Force commanders in all theaters, frankly admits the existence of grave abuses and defects in the present administration of military justice. It is aimed mainly at tightening up methods of investigating charges, conducting trials and sentencing defendants. Mon. 9-8-47

"In an appreciable number of cases," Royall declares, "the investigation of charges required by Article of War 70 have been inadequately conducted."

Accused Soldiers Denied Protection P.M. New York, N.Y.

The Secretary points out four major defects in present methods of investigating charges against GIs:

¶ Inexperienced officers have at times served as investigators.

¶ Full opportunity to develop the defenses has not always been extended to the accused persons.

¶ Some investigating officers have reported action which actually has not been perfomed.

¶ In some cases, although the accused has requested a defense counsel during investigation, such request has been refused, even though the case was complicated.

(Lemas Woods swore that members of the Army's Criminal Investigation Division had beaten a "confession" out of him.)

Secretary Royall directs that only "trained and mature" officers shall henceforth be used as criminal investigators.

"Investigating officers," he adds, "must understand that their investigations must not only be thorough but impartial." (The records show that such Army investigators have often acted as though their function is perfomed successfully only if it leads to a guilty verdict.—A. D.)

The order further directs that "if requested, an accused person will be provided with defense counsel during the investigation of charges under the same conditions and to the same extent as defense counsel is furnished upon trial." (Denial of counsel during investigation can deprive an accused man of the chance to dig up vital evidence of innocence. It would seem that counsel should be assigned automatically in this period, since the accused may not be aware of his rights.—A.D.)

Hits Assignment of Inexperienced Defenders

"Defense counsel detailed for general courts-martial have not adequately performed their duties in all cases," Secretary Royall continues, "Junior and inexperienced officers have, at times, been detailed as defense counsel in cases involving serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, etc."

Such inexperienced men, Royal observes, sometimes fail to cross examine witnesses properly, to assert proper defenses or to call available witnesses. (This was the case with the young lieutenant, with no legal background, who was assigned to defend Lemas Woods; he is now a Coca-Cola salesman in California.) Mon. 9-8-47

Henceforth, Royall directs, an officer with legal training and experience must be detailed as defence counsel in every case, if available. If such an officer is not available, defense counsel must be selected "on the basis of extended military training, intelligence, common sense and diligence." He must be as competent, in every way, as the prosecutor; if the latter is a lawyer, he, too, must be a lawyer.

"Some cases are still being received in which extreme and excessive sentences are being adjudged by courts-martial and approved by reviewing authorities," Royall reveals. He implies that courts-martial sometimes impose sentences known to be excessive, in the belief that reviewing authorities will reduce them. Royall sharply condemns this practice, and calls for just safeguards.

Finally, the Secretary forbids commanding officers to censure, admonish or reprimand Army courts or members thereof with respect to sentences meted out by them. (Fear of such censure apparently has coerced many courts to deliver guilty verdicts or harsh sentences, in accordance with the supposed desire of the commanding officer who ordered the court martial.—A. D.)

The Royall order doesn't completely clear up the court-martial mess, but it goes a long way.

The directive is, of course, only a stop-gap. It remains for Congress, which investigated the court-martial at its last session, to fix these and many other needed reforms into statutory rights by speedy amendment of the Articles of War when it convenes in January.

Ask Freeing of Lemas Woods

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

DETROIT, Nov. 12. — The Lemas Woods Defense Committee has urged all individuals and organizations to write Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall requesting that Woods be freed.

Woods is the Negro GI who, after being sentenced to hang for the accidental shooting of his tentmate, was granted a new trial by President Truman. Found guilty at his recent trial of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to three years in jail, Woods has had his sentence cut to 18 months by order of General Mark Clark 11-13-47

The Committee today maintains that Woods has already served more than enough time to make up for the 18-month sentence, that he should be released and given an honorable discharge. Thur.

14c 1947

Legal Sentence (Philippine Islands)

By Albert Deutsch

Negro GI, Saved From Gallows, Faces New Murder Trial in U.S.

PM New York, N.Y. Wed. 4-16-47

SAN FRANCISCO

I visited Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., at the guardhouse of the Presidio, headquarters of the 6th Army Command here, where the 24-year-old Negro soldier from Detroit is being held on a charge of slaying his friend and tent-mate, Pvt. Robert Patterson, last year in the Philippine Islands. PM readers may recall the campaign waged in this column last Fall urging a new trial for this lad, who had been sentenced to be hanged by an Army court-martial in Manila after the fatal shooting of Pvt. Patterson—accidentally, Woods insisted, deliberately, the prosecution claimed.

Deutsch

Jerry-Built Case Against a Soldier's Life

Woods was whizzed to the threshold of the gallows last May after a three-hour trial. The evidence against him consisted mainly of a signed confession, which, Woods alleged, had been extorted from him under duress by agents of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and upon the vague, and at times seriously conflicting testimony of two witnesses. One of these key witnesses later repudiated main portions of his testimony. The defendant's appointed counsel, who consulted with Woods only once the day before the trial, who lacked any legal experience and who now is a Coca-Cola salesman on the West Coast, admitted to this writer that he never should have been asked to take on a case involving murder. The trial judge advocate or prosecutor in the case subsequently signed a statement casting doubt on the methods used in extracting a confession from Woods and the validity of some of the key testimony which convicted him, and asked for a rehearing.

Death Verdict Upset By President Truman

The death sentence, however, was upheld by the Army Reviewing Board in the Pacific Area and by the Army Board of Review in Washington. Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Green, the Army's Adjutant General, did not concur in the Reviewing Board's decision.

President Truman, upon recommendation of Under Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall, finally disapproved the verdict and authorized a new trial.

Since nearly all the witnesses and other figures in the Woods case had been redeployed to the States, the Army decided to hold the new trial here. Wood was transferred from the Manila brig, where he had been a prisoner since March 1946, to the Presidio guardhouse, arriving here on Apr. 1.

Young Woods will be tried in San Francisco. Maj. Roy Steele, executive officer of the Judge Advocate General's Division in this area, won't hazard a guess as to when the trial will begin.

"We've had a devil of a time locating the witnesses," he explains. "Some of them seem to have changed addresses often since their Army discharge and some have just been lost. It will take at least 60 days, I figure, before we can get set. Of course, if we can't round up enough witnesses, the trial may never come off." PM N.Y.

Opposing Counsel Lined Up for New Trial

The Judge Advocate General's office has designated Capt. Arnold G. Eger as trial judge advocate to prosecute the case. Maj. Evan C. Bunker has been designated as defense counsel. Both men are experienced lawyers—unlike the callow youths who handled the Manila trial. Ernest C. Goodman, labor lawyer of Detroit who steered the appeal from the death sentence, will serve as civilian defense lawyer for Woods. He will be assisted by Carlos Ramos, president of the Philippine Islands Lawyers Guild, who helped get the new evidence supporting Woods' contention that the shooting was accidental. He is on his way to this country to assist Goodman as civilian defense counsel. 4-16-47

NEXT: Woods Describes How Confession Was "Beaten Out of Me," and Charges Frame-Up in First Trial That Led to Death Sentence.

By Albert Deutsch

Negro Soldier Gives Own Version Of Murder 'Frame-Up'

PM New York, N.Y., Thurs. 4-17-47

SAN FRANCISCO

Lemas Woods, Jr., the Negro GI who was shipped here from the Philippines for retrial on a charge of slaying his friend and tent-mate, Pvt. Robert Patterson, charges that he was beaten and terrorized by Army investigators into signing the confession that almost sent him to the gallows. President Truman set aside the original guilty verdict of the Army court-martial in Manila after two Army reviewing boards had approved the death penalty imposed upon him. PM

Deutsch

Woods, a straight-shouldered, outspoken lad of 24 with a neatly trimmed mustache, is now confined in the guardhouse of the Presidio, famed headquarters of the 6th Army Command. He occupies a solitary cell, built like an iron cage, which is well-scrubbed, light and airy. By special dispensation of the Adjutant-General's office and with the permission of Ernest G. Goodman, I was allowed to interview Woods in a private room of the Presidio guardhouse, flanked by officers of the Judge Advocate General's staff. I advised him not to answer any questions that might prejudice his case, in view of the company we had. Color bias cost him a fair trial, he says. New York, N.Y.

Why He Thinks He Didn't Get a Fair Trial

"I didn't get a fair trial in Manila," he said, in response to my first query. "Why? I think it's because I'm a colored man. I know a white boy who killed another soldier in the Philippines. When they asked him why he did it, he said he just didn't like that man's looks. They gave that fellow life. Me, I killed my friend by accident. They gave me death."

"What about the confession you signed, the one where you said you shot Patterson deliberately?" I asked.

Thurs. 4-17-47

"That statement was beaten out of me by the CID (Army Criminal Investigation Division) men," Woods answered." One CID hit me in the stomach, stepped on my feet, bent my wrist back. Another slapped at me but didn't hit me because I kept dodging him. One of them kept poking his fist into my back.

"They kept telling me I would surely hang if I didn't sign what they wanted, but they would get me off easier if I did. I wrote out a statement saying that I shot Patterson.

"I wrote what was true, that Patterson and me were good friends and I had no grudge against him. One of the CIDs tore that up. He said it wasn't what they wanted me to say. He said they wanted me to write that I killed him on purpose. They wrote something and I signed it. I didn't even read it. They said I would surely hang if I didn't say what they wanted me to say."

Told to Omit Mention Of Vital Evidence

The prosecution's star witness, Pvt. Hicks, who repudiated much of his damaging testimony after the trial and was proved to be contradictory in other details, testified that he saw Woods turn Patterson over in his bed and deliberately shoot him. (A strange tactic, indeed, for a murderer to pass up a chance to fire a shot into a perfectly vital target—a man's head—and turn him around, then shoot him in the arm, the bullet passing into the victim's heart. Examination of the mosquito netting over Patterson's bed showed a bullet hole in it, tending to disprove the key witness' testimony.

"The prosecutor told me and my lawyer not to mention that mosquito netting," Woods says. "He told us that I surely would be convicted and hanged if I did. I didn't know anything about these court-martials, so I didn't bring that up at the trial. I thought my lawyer was very poor. (He was an inexperienced youth, with no legal background, who is now a Coca-Cola salesman, convinced that Woods did not get a fair deal.) He came to see me about the case for the first time on Apr. 30, 1946. My trial went on May 1. He let a lot of lies get by without saying anything."

Woods Put in 'Sweat-Box' After Verdict Was Upset

"How did you feel when you learned you were going to get a new trial?"

"I felt great. I could hardly believe it when Mr. Goodman (his civilian lawyer) wrote me about it. But then a funny thing happened. While I was under the death penalty, I was allowed to go to church every Sunday. But when the new trial was ordered, they didn't let me go to church anymore. Then they put me into the sweat-box, though I didn't do anything that was wrong. It sure was hell in there."

"What do you mean by a sweat-box?"

"Well, in the Philippines guardhouse they had boxes made of landing-trip wire with tin plates all around it. They used them to punish prisoners who acted up bad. But I never did wrong in jail, but they put me in one of those boxes, anyway."

Pvt. Woods impressed me as a forthright character, who neither talked nor looked like a man who would kill a friend with malice aforethought. He is bitter about his long incarceration—he's been confined in guardhouse since the day of the shooting, in March of last year.

"He's been a model prisoner here," Lt. James Whitcomb, officer in charge of the Presidio guardhouse, told me. "We haven't had a bit of trouble from him."

PM N.Y.

Wants to Learn Trade As a Radio Mechanic

Wood averred that he was being treated well at the Presidio, although he chafes at his daylong solitary confinement, unbroken save for a 30-minute exercise period daily and 20-minute breaks for meals. He never gets to see the paradisiacal, subtropical scenery of the Presidio which is justly celebrated. Wood was employed as a paint sprayer at the McCoy radiator plant in Detroit before he went into the Army in 1942. What would he do if he were freed?

Thurs. 4-17-47

"I always wanted to learn radio work," he said. "I used to get a kick at making my own crystal and battery sets. I was pretty handy at that sort of thing. If I get out, I want to go to a radio school and learn the trade. If I get a fair trial this time, that's what I'll do."

Officers in the Judge Advocate's division at the Presidio figure it will take at least 60 days before sufficient witnesses can be rounded up to start the trial. They hint that the time element and the difficulty in tracing witnesses may cause a dismissal of the case.

REPORT CONDEMNED NEGRO G.I. IN SOLITARY

Lemus Woods, condemned Negro GI, brought to this country from the Phillipines after winning a stay of execution and new trial was reported held in solitary confinement in San Francisco.

Daily Worker

Woods was sentenced to death by an army overseas court martial in May 1946, charged with murdering a tentmate. He claimed innocence and said the shooting was an accident.

New York, N.Y.

A Detroiter and member of the UAW-CIO, Woods' case attracted attention in the Auto City where the local Civil Rights Congress and leaders of the UAW rallied to his defense. Their intervention through Ernest Goodman, Detroit attorney, helped obtain a stay of execution and promise of a fair trial.

Mon.

Goodman made public an order signed by the provost marshall of the prison in which Woods is held directing a regime which the attorney said "seemed to reflect a spirit of persecution."

5-12-47

Wood was ordered kept alone at all times and to be handcuffed to a guard at meals and exercise. He was allowed relief from solitary only for visiting the latrine, for 30 minutes exercise per day and for meals. Guards were forbidden to speak to him. The prisoner was to be checked each 15 minutes.

N.Y.

A sharp protest has been sent to the commanding general in San Francisco. Attorney Goodman pointed out in the protest that Woods had been granted a new trial by the President of the United States on the grounds that the evidence did not warrant his conviction.

ARMY JUSTICE BLASTED:

14c

GI Saved From Death on Gallows, Bitter

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 4-26-47

SAN FRANCISCO—"I didn't get a fair trial in Manila Why? I think it's because I'm a colored man," said Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr. of Detroit in a recent interview with Albert Deutsch, PM columnist, here at the Presidio guardhouse, where he is awaiting a second murder trial.

Saved from the gallows by a Presidential disapproval of the death sentence and order for a new trial, after two Army court martial review boards had approved the sentence, the 24-year old GI was bitter about the whole case.

"I know a white boy who killed another soldier in the Philippines who told them he did so because he didn't like the other fellow's looks. They gave that fellow life," he said.

"Me, I killed my friend by accident. They gave me death," he complained.

Forced to Sign Confession

Woods had been sentenced to death after conviction in a three-hour court martial trial of the charge of fatally shooting Pvt Robert Patterson, his tent-mate, last Spring. An alleged confession of deliberate murder figured in the trial.

"That confession was beaten out of me by CID (Army Criminal Investigation Division) men," Woods told Mr. Deutsch. He stated that the CID men beat him and told him he would surely hang if he did not sign the confession.

He states that he did not even read over the statement the men gave him to sign, advising that they tore up a statement on the killing he had started to write, himself.

Sat. 4-26-47

Evidence Repudiated

Witnesses against Woods have repudiated testimony they gave at his court martial trial. The prosecutor has signed a statement revealing he was not convinced that Woods deliberately shot his friend; and the officer who defended him, now a soft drink salesman, also expressed his belief that the youth did not get a fair trial.

Credit for gathering and submitting to the President the evidence which offers the soldier a new lease on life belongs to Ernest Goodman, a labor lawyer of Detroit; Carlos Ramos of the Philippine Islands Lawyers Guild and to Mr. Deutsch.

Woods stated that he is being treated all right at the Presidio guardhouse, although he is irked by the solitary confinement he is kept in all day, except for a 30-minute exercise period and 20-minute meal times.

It will take at least 60 days before sufficient witnesses can be rounded up to start the retrial, officers of the Judge Advocate's division at the Presidio announced.

From the Readers

Duty

Dear Editor:

In your excellent series of articles on the court-martial of Pvt. Lemas Woods, Albert Deutsch points out the eminent fairness of both the court and prosecution. He notes that the law member seems to bend over backward while the Trial Judge Advocate has shown a "commendable restraint" in presenting his case.

PM New York N.Y.

The point Deutsch makes is good, but I don't think it goes far enough. These men only have been doing their duty as oultined in the *Army Courts-Martial Handbook.*

It is the *duty* of the law member to "bend over backward," and it is the *duty* of the TJA to protect the rights of the accused. The fault with our present system of military justice is not in its ideals, but in its practice. Too often, men of dubious ability and questionable integrity are called upon by commanding officers to carry out miiltary justice. When capable men, or at least men with integrity, conscientiously carry out the Army procedures, justice is indeed a good deal fairer than in civilian life.

New York Harold W. Williams

Army court-martial procedure is archaic and abhorrently undemocratic.

The proposition inherent in American justice that a man is innocent until proven guilty, operates conversely in the service. More often than not, appearance before a court-martial board is an indication of guilt and serves simply as an expedient for determining the extent of sentence to be imposed.

When a man enters the service of his country he must concede a certain amount of his precious liberty. That he must forfeit one brand of justice for another, of dubious quality, is to impose upon him a gross indignity.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (Philippine Islands)

Soldier court-martial goes into 2nd week

Tribune - Los Angeles, Calif.

Sat-8-2-47

SAN FRANCISCO — There could be no greater contrast than there is between the first and second general court martials of Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., forlorn Detroit Negro soldier, accused (once convicted and sentenced to be shot) of the murder of a tent mate in the Philippines in March of last year.

Where the trial, conviction and sentencing of Woods 16 months ago consumed only four hours, this general court martial got underway Monday and at press time Friday had shown no signs of an early completion. Before the case is submitted to the panel of 8 officers, one of whom is a Negro lieutenant, one a brigadier general and six of whom are colonels, it is expected some 30 witnesses gathered from the Philippines, Japan and 15 of the states will have been heard.

As for Woods' defense, where only one man defended him of the charge of wilfully and cold-bloodedly shooting sleeping Pfc. Thomas Patterson, he now has four defense lawyers, one of them a civilian, Ernest Goodman, of Detroit, two Army officers, and one a plucky veteran of the Bataan Death March and a leader of the Philippine Underground, Carlos P. Ramos.

That first lawyer for Woods was not, it has since developed, a lawyer at all. He was a young Army officer who, in private life, had been a soft drink salesman. Understandably, he did not cross-examine even the most damaging witnesses against his client.

Although his defense battery is brilliant, Woods' prosecution is no slouch either. Chief is Capt. Arnold G. Eger, a former UCLA law professor.

. Thus far, the defense has occupied itself debunking the original testimonies of witnesses at the first court martial, such as Dr. Bray O. Hawkins, of Canton, O., who, as a Medical Corps officer, performed the autopsy on Patterson's body and contributed "evidence" that Patterson had been shot from close range and not from across the room as Woods, who claimed the shooting was accidental and came about as he was cleaning his revolver, claimed.

Questioned for three hours, Dr. Hawkins finally admitted he could not qualify as an expert witness in the matter of medical ballistics, and could not determine the range of fire from the characteristics of the wound, winding up with the lame statement that it is "very difficult to discern a first or second degree burn on a colored man, particularly if heavily pigmented".

Witness Wilts At Woods' Court-Martial

PM

SAN FRANCISCO

Palpable lack of adequate defense counsel at the Manila trial of Pvt. Lemas Woods—even though his life was at stake—was emphasized again and again at his second court-martial at the Presidio here yesterday on charges of fatally shooting a teammate, Pfc. Thomas Patterson, at Manila on the morning of Mar. 23, 1946. Fri. 8/1/47

Ernest Goodman, labor attorney of Detroit and head of Woods' legal battery, ripped holes into the testimony of star prosecution witnesses—two CID agents who claimed they took an alleged confesssion from Woods in Bilibid Prison several days after the shooting.

The witnesses were John S. Walls, one-time Salinas police lieutenant, and Omer S. Bowen, of Sacramento. New york, N.Y.

Wallls insisted Woods' purported confession was given voluntarily, without promises, threats or abuse.

He told of sitting in on a conversation in Woods' cell between Woods and Lt. Robert L. Wilson, then executive officer of Woods' company. Walls testified:

"Woods told Lt. Wilson he was sorry he lied about saying it was an accident and that he had murdered Patterson." Under cross-examination, Walls couldn't remember that Woods had used the word *murder*. But he did recall that he hadn't paid much attention to the conversation and wasn't quite sure what Woods had said. There is no such testimony by Walls in the transcript of the first cour-martial.

Wilson, recalled at Goodman's behest, said that at no time in the Bilibid cell conversation did Woods tell him the shooting was other than accidental.

Bowen contradicted Walls by testifying that he alone served as model for Patterson at the re-enacting of the shooting. Walls had said that several persons assumed the role and Wilson testified that only Woods played it. Bowen also said that he was unaware that Woods—as Walls had testified—had earlier said the shooting was not an accident. Fri. 8-1-47

Woods' Shot Accident? Could Be, Says Expert

N.Y.C.

PM

Special Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO

Capt. Amadeo M. Cabe, Manila Police ballistics expert flown from the Philippines as a key prosecution witness in the second court-martial of Pvt. Lemas Wood, testified yesterday that the fatal shooting by Woods of his tentmate, Pvt. Thomas Patterson, could have been an accident. Tues. 8. 5. 1947

This admission, a signal point in favor of Woods, came in the second week of this trial. In the first court-martial in Manila a year ago Woods was tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hanged in one three-hour session.

Cabe, in charge of the U. S. Army's Criminal Investigation Division laboratory at Manila, described the Army .45 automatic used in the shooting and explained the difficulty of firing it accidentally—that it would require a four to six-pound pull on the trigger.

Says Killing Is Not Always Intentional

But to a question by Maj. Evans C. Bunker of defense counsel, Cabe declared: "A killing is not always intentional. Sometimes the gun goes off without knowing it; sometimes you think the gun is empty." New york, N.Y.

Bunker held an automatic in his left hand and passed his right hand over it, simulating a motion of wiping off a speck. The hammer clicked. And Cabe said a gun could discharge accidentally in such a manner.

An earlier prosecution witness had testified that Woods right after the shooting had said: "I didn't know one was in the barrel."

Witness Says Net Had Hole in It

Tues. 8.5.47

Ernest Goodman, civilian defense attorney from Detroit, called as the first defense witness Noel C. Smith of Old Orchard, Conn., a sergeant in Woods' company at Manila.

Smith said he was in a nearby orderly room when he heard the shot that morning. He rushed to Woods' tent, saw the mosquito net down over Patterson's cot, held it up with one hand and noticed a hole in the net. The prosecution claims Woods lifted the net and shot Patterson.

Supply Sergeant Locked Up Net

Smith said he was not questioned by CID agents investigating the affair.

Roger E. Bryant, a social worker of 64 West 128th St., New York City, a supply sergeant in Woods' company, testified he was ordered by his commanding officer that morning to lock up the net "as evidence." He identified the net in exhibit as the one he had seen that morning with a hole in it, and which he said CID agents later took from him.

The net was not placed in evidence in the first trial, although a hole in it would have contradicted witnesses who said Woods lifted the net and fired deliberately.

Woods Tells of Shooting Mishap

N.Y.C.

SAN FRANCISCO

Pvt. Lemas Woods had the morning all to himself at the Presidio. He spent as much time on the stand telling his own story of the shooting of Pfc. Thomas Patterson as it took the first military court in Manila to try, convict and order him hanged.

And by noon he still hadn't finished his direct recital. In contrast, he spent less than 10 minutes on the stand at his first trial.

Woods told in detail today how he shot his friend and tentmate on the morning of Mar. 23, 1946.

"I sat down on the side of my bed. I took my pistol out and took a GI handkerchief and started rubbing it to take some lint off from the GI blankets," Woods said.

"The sergeant said there'd be some inspection and I didn't want it (the gun) because I had no rights with it. I got up off my bunk and started to (Pvt. Leland) Sanchious' bed to give it to him so he could put it in his footlocker

"And as I was walking along the gun went off. I don't know how it went off, but it did and fell on the floor. I picked it up and put it in my pocket.

"Sanchious woke up and said, 'you shot that boy.'

"Patterson hollered, 'Oh, Lord, have mercy.'

"I looked in his face. I don't remember if I raised the net to sit on his bed or just to look in his face. He was lying on his back. Blood was coming out of his mouth. I asked him where he was hit at. He never did say and I started out going to the orderly room. I stopped to put the gun in a blanket. I was scared.

"I hollered to a soldier to ge the first sergeant. The first sergean come and said, 'who did the shoo ing?' Nobody said anything. I wa scared. I realize I shouldn't hav the gun." Wed 8. 6.1947

Earlier, Woods said he bough the Army .45 automatic from Filipino for 60 pesos and had nickle-plated for 30 pesos. As pe regulations with souvenir weapon he had kept it in the supply roon

WOODS IN FIGHT FOR RELEASE FROM MANILA DEATH SENTENCE

The Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Okla.

14C

Alleges Fatal Shot Resulted From Accident As He Passed Soldier's Cot

Sat-8-9-47

WITNESS SAYS ACT WAS PREMEDITATED MURDER

SAN FRANCISCO — (ANP) — For the second time, Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., went on trial for his life here early last week. Before a military court of nine army officers—one a brigadier generad and one a Negro first lieutenant—Woods is fighting to win a release from a death sentence imposed for the murder of his teammate. Pvt. Robert Patterson, two years ago in Manila

Spotlight in the opening session of the trial July 28 was turned upon a piece of mosquito netting bearing a bullet hole, and upon which Woods based his contention that the shooting of Patterson was an accident.

According to the prosecution, Woods had lifted the netting, awakened Patterson, spoke to him and then shot him. Prosecutor Capt. Arnold G. Egar told the court martial board that evidence would show the shooting was "willful, deliberate, felonious murder with malice aforethought." He backed up this contention by introducing Wood's supposedly "voluntary" confession as proof.

Atty. Ernest Goodman, civilian defense counsel, replied that "few of the facts were presented in Wood's first court martial," and when they were introduced, "a totally different picture of this case will be shown."

Wood's version is that he was cleaning a .45 calibre pistol, carried it past the slain soldier's cot, and in passing, brushed some lint off the pistol causing it to go off.

Key prosecution witness, John H. Hicks—the soldier who had testified at the first trial that he had seen Woods raise the mosquito netting, speak to Patterson and then shoot him—came up with a complete reversal of his original testimony. Sat-8-9-47

Hicks had said in the first trial that he could see Wood's actions while lying on a cot two tents away, and also that he had heard what was said. This testimony was the main reason the defendant was sentenced to hang in a three-hour "quickie" trial.

Last Wednesday, however, he said he had only been able to see a man presumed to be Woods walking around near Patterson's cot with a "shiny looking" gun in his hand, and then saw his hand lift and heard a shot.

This bit of testimony drew an outburst from Capt. Eger, who incoherently moved to have the witness impeached. The motion was objected to by Atty. Goodman and upheld by the court.

Earlier witnesses, subpoened by thet defense from all corners of the country and overseas, gave testimony tending to prove there was no ill-feeling between the accused and the deceased, and that the shooting was accidental. First defense witness called was Robert L. Wilson, a machinist from Brooklyn, who declared that he could observe Patterson's cot from his position two tents away. He was unable, however, to say he could have heard a conversation in that distance. Sat-8-9-47

Another witness, John C. Forman of Savannah, Ga., told the court that he and Woods had planned to clean the tent for inspection the morning of March 23, 1946, just prior to the shooting. He said Woods had started out for water, when he took the container from him, saying he would go. While he was outside, he heard a shot.

Pfc. Sanchious said he awoke when the shot was fired, and exclaimed "Man, you shot that boy." Woods was described as being excited and frightened. He was reported to have said "I didn't know there was a bullet in the barrel."

The commanding officer of the defendant's outfit. Capt. Robert L. Wilson, told the court of hearing the shot, going into the tent and being told by one of the men that "Woods has a gun." He also said he saw the netting with the bullet hole in it.

Under cross examination, he said that Woods contended from the begining that the shooting was accidental and had signed a statement to that effect. Woods held that a latter confession had been extracted from him by coercion and was used to convict him.

Wilson said that he had visited Woods two days after the shooting in his cell in a Manila's Bilibib prison with CID Agent John S. Walls, where the prisoner told him "the shooting was an accident."

However, testimony by CID Agent Omer Bowen disagreed with that of Walls as to the time the final confession was drawn up, as well as other factors surrounding the incident. Bowen said the confession was drawn up "at night," while Walls maintained it was "late in the afternoon." Bowen said he had lain on the table to demonstrate the shooting, but Walls testified Woods had done so. Sat-8-9-47

Among others participating in the trial were Carlos Rafos of the Philippine Lawyers guild, who played a major role in unearthing new evidence in the case; Lemas Woods Sr., of Detroit and his wife, Thomas M. Baty, Australian criminologist called in to determine the distance between Woods and the slain Patterson at the time of shooting; and Dr. Bray O. Hawk, Canton, O., physician who, as army surgeon, performed the autopsy on Patterson but revealed a startling lack of knowledge about gun-shot wounds and ballistics. Sat-8-9-47

Pvt. Woods Tells of Being Beaten

The Afro-American, Baltimore, Md. Sat 8-9-47

Evidence at Retrial Fair, More Favorable

SAN FRANCISCO — Testifying in his own behalf last Friday, Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., on retrial by Presidential order for the death of his friend and tent-mate, Pfc. Robert Patterson, in Manila, P.I., on March 25, 1946, said Army Criminal Investigation agents beat him when taking his statement.

He said he was held for three days in a cell in Bilibid Prison. and John S. Walls, an Army agent, took him to Criminal Investigation headquarters where he was asked to write a statement.

Statement Torn Up

Woods told the nine-man court-martial board that Walls read his statement and tore it up, exclaiming, "This isn't the statement we want."

He asserted that Walls then struck him in the stomach, doubling him up, and grabbed his wrist and twisted his hand back while another agent, Omer S. Bowen, hit him in the back.

Signed "Doctored" Paper

"They then told me to start talking and talking fast," Woods testified further. "They wrote a statement and I signed it." Woods was condemned to death by an Army court-martial in Manila in 1946. Sat-8-9-47

His fate rests chiefly on the final determination of a number of technical questions by the board hearing the case at the Presidio, headquarters of the 6th Army Command. Foremost of these is, "Was Patterson asleep or awake when shot?"

Mosquito Net Evidence

Testifying for the defense, Jack S. Waddy of Texas told the court he had run to the tent where Patterson and Woods were when the shooting occurred, and had pointed out to other soldiers the bullet-hole in Patterson's mosquito net exhibited as evidence.

The testimony conflicted with that of the prosecution's chief witness, John H. Hicks, now a G.I. student in Monroe, La., who said at the Manila trial that Woods had lifted up Patterson's net and then fired the fatal shot.

Star Witness Hostile

Back on the stand here last week, Hicks was hazy and uncertain about what happened, suddenly became hostile, and told a story at variance to the one he related in 1946.

It was brought out under cross-examination that Hicks allegedly saw what he said went on from his own bunk two tents away.

Able Defense Staff

A brilliant defense battery, including Carlos Ramos, 32, president of the Philippines Lawyers Guild, who helped to uncover much of the new evidence, and was a lieutenant in the U. S. Army during the war, is fighting to prove that Patterson's death was a tragic accident and not a deliberate murder.

A colored first lieutenant is a member of the court-martial board, and over 20 witnesses are on hand from all parts of the world, but were not permitted to testify at the original Manila trial, although available. Sat-8-9-47

Ernest Goodman, CIO Automobile Workers Union lawyer of Detroit, is Wood's civilian defense counsel.

Detroiter Happy Over Verdict; Says He Had Fair Trial

Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.

14C

By CHARLES GIBSON
(California Bureau)

Sat. 8-16-47

SAN FRANCISCO—Nullifying a former sentence ordering him hanged, Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter by a general court-martial held at the Presidio, which closed here Thursday.

The sentence was three years imprisonment at hard labor.

Woods was first tried for the murder of Pfc. Thomas Patterson in Manila, P. I., in March, 1946, in a general court-martial held there. He was found guilty and sentenced to hang.

PRESIDENT INTERCEDES

Interceding in the case, President Truman ordered another trial to be held. Subsequently Woods and key witnesses were returned to San Francisco to appear before another court-martial.

Other provisions carried by the sentence are dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay by Woods.

Reviewing authorities, including President Truman, the Army Board of Review at Washington, the Under-Secretary of War and General Mark Clark of the Sixth Army have the power to reduce, but not increase the sentence.

TEN-DAY TRIAL Sat-8-16-47

Ten days were consumed by the court-martial, whereas in the first trial he was found guilty in three hours.

Happy over the verdict, Woods declared he got a fair trial here.

His defense counsel, Atty. E. C. Goodman of Detroit, made no comment on further action.

Evoking international interest, the case drew nation-wide attention. A defense committee formed in Detroit, home of the accused, rallied to his defense and raised funds to secure the services of the civilian attorney.

A Filipino attorney, Carlos Ramos, journeyed to this country to appear on Woods' behalf.

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING

From the outset Woods has contended that he shot Patterson, whom he called his best friend, accidentally. The defendant claimed that he was carrying his .45 calibre revolver as protection against being beaten by gangs of Filipinos.

14c 1947 Legal Sentence (South)

NEW DEAL IN DIXIE?

Afro American

14c

Murder Victims' Color Not Deciding Penalty

Baltimore, Md.

CHICAGO (ANP)—The execution of two men and the sentencing of a third to death indicate that there has been a definite about-face by Southern white supremacy justice, which previously has held to the theory that colored people could kill others of their own race, but not a white man.

Thurs. 5-17-47

In Columbia, S.C., Freddie Jones, a 19-year-old World War II veteran, died in the electric chair for the mutilation death of Miss Gladys S. Woods of Chester County. Jones brutally stabbed Miss Woods to death, he admitted.

Mississippi justice likewise doomed Walton Ratcliff, 25-year-old slayer of his father-in-law, to death. He paid for his crime at Decatur, Miss., but before he died advised his pals "to stay out of trouble."

Meanwhile Cubie L. Johnson faces the electric chair in Little Rock for the robbery-murder of an aged watchman.

During his trial last week, a white defense lawyer, Ross J. Robley, asked the all-white jury not to set a precedent by sending a colored man to the electric chair for killing another, explaining that it had never happened in Pulaski County.

Thur. 5-17-47

The aged Williams, employed at the Monarch Mill and Lumber Company, was found shot to death and robbed on the company's property on Jan. 10.

Police investigation revealed that Johnson struck Williams down with a brick, then robbed him of a small sum of money and a revolver.

The night watchman regained consciousness and recognizing his assailant, warned him he was going to call police. Johnson then fired a shot into the back of his prostrate victim's head.

The slayer had served three prison terms, two for the theft of automobiles and the third for grand larceny. No date has been set for his execution.

Negro Dies In Chair After Break Fails

Birmingham Ala.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 3—(AP)—Cleve Covington, powerful Negro, went to death in the electric chair here today but only after he had failed in a desperate 11th-hour attempt to break out of the state prison death house. Fri. 1-3-47

Just before the execution time, the 195-pound condemned strong man, wrenched a stout iron bar from his cell and battered down the inner door. Only the solid steel outer door blocked his path to the prison yard.

When he found he could not get beyond this door, he surrendered quietly, walked to the chair without further resistance, and went to his death smiling.

The Negro was convicted of fatally beating Watt Martin, Winston-Salem, N. C., tobacconist in a tobacco warehouse at Mullins in 1945.

Haggins to Be Executed Tomorrow for Slaying

News Courier

COLUMBIA, April 17. (AP).—Penitentiary officials prepared today for the scheduled execution tomorrow morning of Talmadge Haggins, negro, convicted in the shooting death last September 19 of Oliver Benjamin Powers, 23-year-old Rock Hill taxi driver. Fri 4-18-47

Prison officials said they had received no word of a stay of execution, and Governor Thurmond's office reported that no last-minute clemency was being considered "as yet." Charleston, S.C.

Haggins was convicted in Lancaster county general sessions court after Powers' body was found on the Lancaster-Great Falls highway. Powers' bloodstained cab was found abandoned in Columbia.

S. C. Electrocution Succeeds After Attempt to Escape

The News and Courier

COLUMBIA, Jan. 3. (AP): A condemned negro who twice sought by sheer physical strength to escape electrocution died calmly in the South Carolina electric chair today, a smile of resignation to fate on his lips. Charleston, S.C.

Bending a weakened one-inch death cell prison bar with his bare hands in a desperate, impossible 11th hours escape attempt, Cleve Covington was frustrated by a solid steel death house outer door.

The 195-pound, six-foot, two-inch negro weakened the cell bar with a saw he had concealed in his shoe, then bent it open. He smashed to pieces another death cell block door, but was trapped there by the solid steel outer door.

Guards found him pacing the death cell block hall and death chamber like a caged animal, but their appearance apparently resigned him to the fate he had fought so desperately to avoid, for he went quietly to death as a tripled guard watched. Sat. 1-4-47

Once before the 26-year-old Marlboro county negro from Clio had sought to cheat the chair, begging officers to kill him and fighting them with a cold fury in the hope that, angered, one of them would shoot him to death.

That was in the Marion county jail several weeks ago when officers sought to transfer him here to await death for killing Watt Martin, a Winston-Salem, N. C., tobacconist whose paper-wrapped body was found in a Mullins tobacco market outbuilding in August, 1945.

"I guess it was because he was such a giant in strength," State Electrician Sam Cannon said of the fact that it took four minutes and 41 seconds and 11 amperes of current, rather than the usual nine shot through his body at a 2,300-volt speed, to kill Covington.

Florence Slayer Pays for Crime

The News and Courier

COLUMBIA, Feb. 14. (AP)—Robert Jordan, 21-year-old Florence county negro, died calmly in the penitentiary electric chair today after confessing that he killed Mrs. Sam J. Matthews because she recognized him as "I was robbing the house and hunting money."

"I want you to tell Mr. Matthews I am sorry," Jordan told officials. "I got frightened—scared because she knew me." The News and Courier

He exonerated Matthews, whom he had tried to implicate at his trial and who was present for the execution.

"That was a lie," he said. "He didn't have anything to do with it." Charleston, S.C.

Mrs. Matthews was stabbed to death with a large case knife in her farm home five miles from Florence December 19.

After Jordan was strapped into the chair. Captain Fuller Goodman, of the penitentiary guard, asked if he had anything to say. It was then Jordan repeated the confession he had made several times earlier in his cell after protesting his innocence up until a few hours before he died. Sat. 2-15-47

Jordan asked the Bible be read, which was done, and the mask was applied to his face. State Electrician Sam Cannon threw the switch and Jordan gripped the chair convulsively.

The execution required 4 minutes, 48 1-2 seconds, a much longer time than usual.

Several women were in the group of witnesses and their faces bore the strain of the sight. None fainted, however. 2-15-47

NEGRO VET FIGHTS LIFE TERM FOR SLAYING ATTACKER

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

By Walter Lowenfels

PHILADELPHIA, June 1.—If Edward Way had been lynched in South Carolina, instead of shooting his attackers, and killing one of them, he might have been headline news for a week or two. Now this 24-year-old Negro war veteran is fighting a life sentence—for having successfully defended his life.

Just one organization—the Baptist Veterans—is organizing the defense of a man who upset the lynch pattern of the South. With the exception of the Daily Worker and some Negro weeklies, the press ignored the case of Edward Way.

Way was convicted May 5 by an all-white jury in Orangeburg, S. C., killing one white man and wounding another. He pleaded selfe-defense. He told how he fired to protect his life when two white men tried to force him into their car.

Despite every effort by the state to obtain a death sentence, the jury brought in a recommendation for mercy. It appears to be the first time on record where a Negro convicted of killing a white man in the South has escaped the death penalty. Mon. 6-2-47

However, the fight for Way's freedom is just beginning. His attorney, W. B. Martin, white lawyer of Orangburg, is appealing the life sentence to the State Supreme Court. Rev. B. E. Barton, national commander of the National Baptist War Veterans, says his organization will continue the fight for Way's freedom to the United States Supreme Court.

Funds for the fight are being handled by the "Edward Way Defense Fund," Baptist Headquarters, 17th and Diamond St., Philadelphia.

Way, a former Midvale steel worker, who lived with his mother here at 5630 Pulaski St., was honorably discharged from the Army with several citations after four years service. He was on a visit to some of his family in South Carolina last winter when he was stopped on the road by C. C. Robinson, a white man who accused him of breaking into his house.

When Way denied the charge, Robinson drove off and returned with another white man, Duncan Axton. The two white men, both armed, got out of their car and demanded that Way get in. When he refused, they started to close in on him. Robinson came toward Way from the front of the car, Axton from the back. Mon. 6-2-47

Way fired four shots. The two white men fell. Robinson lived, but Axton died from two bullet wounds. Way, fearing a lynch mob, took a train to return to Philadelphia. Police stopped him at Washington, and he was returned for trial.

White Gets Life Sentence For Murder Of Negro

Defender Chicago Ill. Sat. 10-18-47

AIKEN, S. C. — George W. Bush, white, was found guilty in criminal court here Wednesday, for the murder of Sam Mason, Negro, who was found shot in the head on the Edgefield highway on the morning of April 27, and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Bush was brought here from the state penitentiary in Columbia where he began a 15-year sentence last May for attempted robbery of the bank in Pulzer, S. C. A verdict was returned one hour after the jury retired to deliberate the case finding the defendant guilty with the recommendation of mercy from the court.

New Trial Ordered For Brother, Sister

Sat. 7-5-47 Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

COLUMBIA—(ANP)—By a unanimous decision, the State Supreme Court ordered a new trial for Frank Hinton, 16, and his sister, Azalee Simpson, on the grounds that remarks made by the State prosecutor in his argument to the jury were "improper and prejudiced and inflamed the minds of the jurors against the Negroes."

The opinion, by Associate Justice Fishburne, stated, "We think he overstepped the bounds of legitimate argument." Sat. 7-5-47

Hinton had been sentenced to death in the electric chair in connection with the death of Barto Alley ,a white man. His sister was also declared guilty of murder with recommendation of mercy and was sentenced to life imprisonment. Sat. 7-5-47

SLAPPED HINTON

According to the record, early in December, 1945, Alley slapped Hinton in the face as the latter was leaving a service station after warming himself at a stove. The owner of the station ordered Hinton to go home, a distance about 100 yards away.

Hinton offered no resistance, but went home. He returned shortly with a shotgun and his sister. Alley went out to meet him. In the scuffle which followed, Alley was shot in the stomach as he attempted to take the gun from Hinton. Alley died within a few hours.

Aiken Man Given Life Sentence In Murder Of Negro

S.C.

Columbia Record

AIKEN, Oct. 9—George W. Bush, (alias Solesbee) today faced a sentence of life imprisonment after his conviction yesterday in criminal court here of the murder of Sam Mason, Negro, who was found dead on a highway six miles from here on April 27, with a bullet wound in his head. Thu 10-9-47

Bush was returned to the state penitentiary, where he is currently serving a 15 year sentence for attempted bank robbery at Pelzer, after Judge L. D. Lide pronounced the sentence. He is also wanted in Georgia in connection with the murder of a white man.

Seek Release Of Vet in S. C.

The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—The Baptist Veterans Council, Seventeenth and Diamond Sreets, is presently conducting a drive for funds to carry the case of a convicted veteran to the State Supreme Court in South Carolina.

The veteran, Edward Way of this city, killed one white man and wounded another who attacked him on a lonely road near Woodford, S. C., last May., Sat. 10-18-47

Fleeing the scene he was captured in Virginia, returned to South Carolina and convicted. He was found guilty by an all-white jury which recommended mercy and was sentenced to life imprisonment at the State Penitentiary in Columbia. Funds in his behalf may be sent to the veterans group in care of the Rev. B. E. Barton, council commander.

14c 1947

Legal Sentence (South Carolina)

Negro And Sister Found Guilty In Shotgun Slaying

Columbia Record
Thu. 10-9-47
S. C.

CHESTER, Oct. 9.—(UP)—An 18-year-old Negro and his sister today were found guilty in their second trial for the shotgun slaying of Barto Alley, 39-year-old white man, in December, 1945.

The Chester county court jury deliberated almost eight hours before it found Frank Hinton guilty of first-degre murder and his sister, Azalee Simpson, guilty of voluntary manslaughter.

The jury recommended mercy for Hinton, which means that circuit Judge E. H. Henderson of Bamberg will automatically impose a life sentence on the Negro. His sister will be sentenced to from two to 30 years in prison.

In the first trial in March, 1946, Hinton was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death and his sister was convicted of murder and given a life sentence. But the state supreme court granted an appeal for a new trial.

Testimony in the second trial brought out that Alley, a well know Fairfield county pulpwood dealer, had been drinking beer at a combination store and filling station near here just before his death. Thu 10-9-47

It was alleged that he struck Hinton as the Negro was leaving the store and that Hinton left threatening to come back. Later, it was testified, Hinton returned with his sister and a shotgun and Barto was killed as he met them at the door and struggled for the gun.

After hearing two days of testimony the jury took the case at 5:50 p. m. yesterday and brought back a decision at 1:30 this morning.

White Man Gets Life For Killing Colored In S. C.

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

By Associated Negro Press

AIKEN, S. C. — A convicted robber, white, also wanted in Georgia for the murder of a white man, was given a life sentence in Judge L. D. Lide's Criminal Court here recently for the murder of a Negro last April. Sat 11-29-47

The man, George W. Bush, alias Solesbee, has been found guilty of murdering Sam Mason last April 27 on the Edgefield highway about six miles from here. The victim had been found with a bullet wound through his head. Sat 11-29-47

Bush was captured last May in Athens, Ga., and brought to Anderson for trial on charges of attempting to rob a Pelzer S. C. bank. He was give a 15-year term in state penitentiary. After receiving the life sentence, Bush was returned to the state penitentiary by Sheriff Price Fallaw.

According to State Historian Alex S. Salley, no white man, convicted of slaying Negroes, has received the death sentence since the 1850's. He recalled that at that time two white men were hanged in Colleton county for murdering a runaway slave.

Dixie White Robber Gets Life For Slaying Negro

Sat
Defender
Chicago, Ill.

AIKEN, S. C.—(ANP)—A convicted robber, white, also wanted in Georgia for the murder of a white man, was given a life sentence in Judge L. D. Lide's criminal court here recently for the murder of a Negro last April. Sat 11-29-47

The man, George W. Bush, alias Solesbee, has been found guilty of murdering Sam Mason last April 27 on the Edgefield highway about six miles from here. The victim had been found with a bullet wound through his head. Bush was captured last May in Athens, Ga., and brought to Anderson for trial on charges of attempting to rob a Pelzer, S. C. bank. He was given a 15-year term in state penitentiary by Sheriff Price Fallaw.

According to State Historian Alex S. Salley, no white man, convicted of slaying Negroes, has received the death sentence since the 1850's. He recalled that at that time two white men were hanged in Colleton county for murdering a runaway slave. 11-29-47

14c 1947

Legal Sentence (Tenn.)

Sanity Test May Save Doomed Boy

Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

14c

Sat-8-9-47

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Fred Jackson, 18-year-old Memphis youth sentenced to be electrocuted here Aug. 11, on a first degree murder charge, will be given a sanity test at Central State Hospital.

Dr. E. S. Hauk, hospital superintendent, said a noted psychiatrist has been directed by Governor Jim McCord to examine the youth, who has steadfastly maintained he is innocent. Sat-8-9-47

Jackson is alleged to have killed two small white children after criminally assaulting the children's mother.

Governor Refuses To Intervene; So Jackson Dies Mon.

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

Fri-8-8-47

MEMPHIS, Tennessee —(SNS) — With his last hope for escape from the electric chair cut off by Governor Jim McCord, who refuses to intervene in his case, Fred Jackson, 17-year-old Shelby County youth, will die Monday for the slaying of the two infant boys of Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Goss, white.

Governor McCord sent a letter to Fred's parents this week, explaining that he did not see any reason for his interfering with the action of the State Supreme Court which had already sustained the death penalty imposed by a Shelby County Criminal jury. The governor's action came after a sanitly test was made of Fred Jackson last week by Dr. E. S. Hauk, superintendent of Central State Hospital and well known psychiatrist.

Their examination, according to the communication from the governor, disclosed that Fred Jackson was below normal mentally, but that he was able to tell right from wrong and was capable of remembering many of the details connected with the crime. Fri. 8-8-47

Mrs. Mary Jackson, mother of the doomed youth, said that she and her husband had reconciled themselves to his fate. And Fred himself was also reconciled.

Detective A. F. Bailey, of Bailey's National Detective Agency, who carried on an extensive investigation of the case last year, and part of this year, in an interview with the Memphis World this week, maintained stoutly that it was his belief that Jackson's death would prove to be a gross miscarriage of justice. He added that certain portions of the reports of his investigation which would have no doubt mitigated this case were never used

Mr. Bailey felt that he was pushed out of the case at time when he could have been of invaluable service but was willing to add this comment on the eve of Jackson's death in the chair. Fred's death will not solve the case, he said.

Mrs. Jackson said that she expects to have the body of her son sent to Memphis for funeral at the New Philadelphia Baptist Church, and burial in the neighborhood where he was born. Fri 8-8-47

"I'll never admit in my own

Death Sentence Upheld

The Informer

~~Sat. 6-21-47~~

Houston, Texas

Houston.—The death sentence given Elijah Pearson, 46, in District Judge Frank Williford's court in October of 1946 on a charge of murder was affirmed by the court of criminal appeals in Austin Wednesday. Pearson was charged with the shotgun slaying of Harold Frank, white veteran, in August, 1946.

After his arrest September 3, Pearson signed a statement to the effect that he shot Frank, Thursday, August 29, 1946, when he came upon the veteran and Mrs. Teresea Frank parked in an automobile on the side of the road near White Oak Bayou.

The statement said that Pearson had intended to rob the couple, but when they failed to produce any money, he demanded that they drive him to Hempstead, Texas. According to the statement, Pearson directed Mrs. Frank, who was driving the vehicle, to stop after she had driven through a maze of black woods.

Pearson ordered the couple to get out of the car and lie on the ground, and while Frank was in the process of arguing with the accused man, Pearson shot him in the head, the statement said. Sat. 6-21-47

Mrs. Frank said Pearson shot the overseas army veteran in the face when he begged Pearson not to attack her She said she broke away from the Negro and ran. Pearson was arrested three days later.

Texan Makes Two Trips to Chair in Hour

Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

By J. DON DAVIS

(Texas Bureau)

HUNTSVILLE, Tex. — For one brief hour the life of 37-year-old Arthur Adams of Fort Worth was spared in a new "Willie Francis" death chamber episode, when the electric chair which was to take his life failed because of a broken electrode connection. After it was repaired, Adams made a second march to the chair and in an hour he was dead. Sat. 9-13-47

Convicted of the murder of his wife, Mrs. Izora Adams, in June of last year, Adams was sentenced to die at the State Penitentiary here, Sept. 5. At the hour appointed for his execution he went to the death chamber accompanied by two prison chaplains, and was strapped into the yawning chair.

When the switch was thrown the current failed its mission of killing Adams, due to a broken connection on his left leg. Adams was taken from the chair and returned to his cell in Death Row while prison aides repaired the chair.

In thirty-five minutes the chair was ready, and without delay Adams was taken back to pay the extreme penalty. The condemned man displayed unusual calmness and declared that he had no ill-will towards anyone.

On his second trip to the chair he showed the same stoic calmness. Sat. 9-13-47

Failure of the electric chair in the Willie Francis case in Louisiana resulted in a nationwide effort to stave off execution of Francis. He was finally electrocuted in St. Martinsville. La.

Says Negro Witnesses Of Crime Won't Talk

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

Fri. 7-11-47

By NATHAN SMITH

FORT WORTH, Texas. — On the bandstand, the orchestra's beating out a rhythm that just won't let the folks sit still while they drink their beer or cokes. Everybody's dancing.

All at once, there's a peculiar whirring noise. One of the dancers crumples to the floor. The dancers crowd around him, awestruck. Somebody has presence of mind to call an ambulance.

But when the ambulance driver arrives, the Negro man is dead—his life snuffed out by a pistol, fired by a member of his own race.

The white "laws" arrive at the scene. Nobody's left the gathering, in the meanwhile. There are half a dozen folks, at least, in the room who saw the man fire the pistol.

"Anybody here see this happen?" the "laws" ask.

Silence. Nobody's left the room, since the tragedy. Maybe six people saw it happen. But nobody says a word.

You can almost hear the thoughts of everyone at the gathering: "Those white policemen are thinking: 'Just another Negro killing. What does it matter?' "

Nobody's willing to say he saw it. Nobody does. And another Negro murderer goes free. Just because the courts don't have enough evidence to convict him.

Aren't white folks just as anxious to see justice brought to a Negro killer, who kills another Negro, as they are to see a white man pay for his crime?

Listen to what the District Attorney Al Clyde had to say today on that subject: Fri. 7-11-47

"It has long been the attitude of peopie who don't think, both white and Negro, that it doesn't make any difference to law-enforcements folks whether one Negro kills another. That's just ignorance on the part of people who feel that way.

"A human life is a human life," regardless of the color of the skin, and regardless of the color of the skin of the person who takes that life. In this country, the law enforcement officers, ever since I have known, have attempted to prosecute Negroes for crimes against their own race. But they have run into difficulty.

"It is hard to get Negroes to confide and trust white law-enforcing officers. But the relation is improving. It's just a matter of education among the people, both white and colored."

The district attorney is of the opinion that Negroes should trust white law-enforcing officers.

"We have no selfish motive for prosecuting a member of the Negro race," the district attorney declared. Negroes have no reason at all for refusing to testify, or to give an eye-witness account of any Negro crime they see committed. Fri. 7-11-47

"As district attorney, charged with seeing that justice is done, it is just as important to me to see that justice is done in the case of a Negro crime as a white crime.

"A Negro is just as much entitled to protection under the law as a white man. But sometimes the law-enforcement officers simply have to throw up their hands, because they're unable to get Negro witnesses to talk."

Gets 20 Years For Slaying; Durham, Special Prosecutor

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

Fri. 5-30-47

DALLAS, Texas. — For the second time within one year a penitentiary sentence has been given in a Negro murder case in which W. J. Durham acted as special prosecutor for the state. Last Friday a jury in Judge Cramers court awarded a 20-year sentence to Lela Hamilton, convicted of the pistol slaying of Bertha Jones in September, 1945, after a large array of witnesses for both defendant and the state had testified during a three day trial. The jury took slightly more than one hour in which to arrive at its verdict. It is reported that several of the jurors were in favor of a life sentence.

Self-Defense Claim

Bertha Jones, according to Lela Hamilton, had attacked her in the yard of her mother, to which she had gone following a visit to the house of Herbert Walker's wife, who complained of the relationship of her husband to Pearlie Myers, niece of the defendant.

Miss Hamilton testified that she went into a back room, secured a pistol, knelt and prayed and meditated before going out of the back door from which direction, shortly after, the shots were heard and Bertha Jones was found dying in her own yard.

It is indicated that trouble had been going on between the accused and the dead woman for some months over the placement of a clothesline. The prosecution proved to the satisfaction of the jury that the murder was the result of bad feeling resulting over this.

The murdered woman was a member of St. John Baptist church and many witnesses, including the Rev. E. C. Estelle, testified to her good reputation in the community as a worker in the church and as a respectable community member.

Durham Special Prosecutor

This marks the second time within a single year that W. J. Durham, well-known as the lawyer in the Sweatt case, has acted as special prosecutor of an alleged Negro murderer. The first time, more than six months ago, he was retained as special prosecutor in the case of Roscoe Johnson. The sentence in that case was 10 years.

Attorney Durham assisted Henry Wade, assistant District Attorney under Will Wilson, recently elected GI who, since taking office has worked unceasingly to bring Negro perpetrators of wrong on other Negroes to justice. Fri. 5-30-47

Lawyers for the defendant were: Attorneys Dempsey, Earl Parker and Henry Tirie, former district attorney.

Because the sentence is in excess of 15 years, no bail will be allowed the defendant pending appeal.

During the trial the court room was crowded continuously with spectators both black and white who were attracted by the unusual spectacle of a Negro in the role of prosecutor.

The employment of Durham is part of a four year campaign of Dallas leaders to bring Negro murderers of their fellows to justice and thereby cut the murder rate of Dallas in which Negroes play the major role.

The two cases in which Attorney Durham has figured so prominently are indications of the desire of the District Attorney to keep the pledges made to Negro electors during his campaign last fall. Fri. 5-30-47

Elijah Pearson To Die August 3 For Veteran's Murder

The Informer

Houston, Texas Sat. 7-12-47

HOUSTON.—Elijah Pearson, 47, convicted of murder last October in connection with the shotgun slaying of World War II Veteran Harold Frank, August 29, 1946, was sentenced to die in the electric chair August 3 of this year by Judge Frank Williford of district criminal court Tuesday. Sat. 7-12-47

The small ex-convict heard his execution date set calmly, showing no outward emotional signs. Williford informed the convicted

In sentencing Pearson, Judge man that the court of criminal appeals in Austin last week had affirmed the death penalty handed down by a Harris County jury here last October.

Pearson was arrested by a posse of state and county officers September 3, 1946. Following his arrest he admitted in a written statement that he shot and killed Frank, when he came upon the veteran and Mrs. Teresa Frank, while the two sat in a parked automobile near the White Oak Bayou. Sat. 7-12-47

Slayer Of White Merchant Gets Life Sentence

Journal & Guide (Va.)

Norfolk, Va.

NORFOLK— Leland Akra 20, escaped the death sentence received a term of life impris ment at the conclusion of his t on a first degree murder cha Monday for slaying Aaron Silv man, 70-year-old Church street merchant on Aug. 1. Sat.

His confession of guilt, with the added contention that he had not intended to kill the merchant, but meant only to assault him and steal some clothes for his two babies, doubtless contributed to the confessed killer receiving the lesser penalty. 10-4-47

A tall, slim light brown-skinned young man, of the 800 block of Smith street, Lee stood impassively as Judge J. Hume Taylor of Corporation Court No. 1 pronounced sentence.

TURNS TO FAMILY

The defendant's wife and father sat just behind him in the courtroom. Lee turned to them, and with hands cuffed held both of the babies, one three months and the other 18 months old. Of one, the convicted father remarked, "He doesn't even know me."

When his arraignment was read, Lee hung his head and pleaded almost inaudibly "guilty."

Detective W. C. Walker, one of the arresting police officers, was the only witness to be called for the prosecution by Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Leighton P. Roper. Walker, who took a signed statement from the defendant at the time of his arrest, quoted from the statement in telling how Lee visited Silverman's store at 725 Church street on Aug. 1, made some purchases and returned shortly thereafter, when he assaulted the victim with a hammer and departed, taking the purchases with him.

The merchant died in a local hospital nine days later.

DIDN'T INTEND TO KILL

In a statement made to the police following his arrest, Lee said he had not intended to murder Silverman, but was intending to steal clothing for his infant.

The prosecuting attorney told the judge that Detective Walker should be recognized for his "brilliance in solving this case." Mr. Roper said the investigating detective had only slim clues and "painstakingly began building." Judge Taylor commended the detective for "excellent work."

HOW KILLER WAS TRACED

Walker, who, with Detectives L. L. Jones and E. M. Towe, was investigating the case, was struck with the fact that part of the clothing taken from the store by the killer—known to be a Negro—was for an infant, and suggested a checkup on recent Negro birth records here. Lee, then in custody on a housebreaking complaint under investigation by Detective Everett G. Watts, was identified as the father of a newly-born child. Under questioning, he made the statement introduced in evidence.

The housebreaking charge was nol prossed by Roper, not because of lack of evidence but because Lee already was under sentence for the "rest of his natural life." This was the sentence recommended to the court by Roper on Lee's plea of guilty.

Lee made his home with his 18-year-old wife whom he married in Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 1, 1946. The family lived with a relative of the young wife at 810 Smith street.

Richmond Jury Frees Colored Defendant Who Killed White Man

Journal 14c Guide

Defender Chicago, Ill.

RICHMOND, (Va.) — Napoleon Williams was freed by a jury in Hustings Court on Oct. 7, of charges that he murdered a white man on the night of July 18, 1947.

The defendant was represented by Martin A. Martin, -member of the legal staff of the NAACP, who proved to court that Williams was acting in self defense when he fatally stabbed a Mr. Ardeno, at the corner of West Broad and Laurel streets. Norfolk, Va.

Williams, an orphan with no near relatives, requested the assistance of the NAACP since he was without funds and friends. After an investigation by legal authorities of the chapter, it was recommended that Mr. Martin defend the accused. Journal & Guide Sat 11-1-47

DEVELOPMENTS OF TRIAL

Developments of the trial revealed that on the night before the crime, Ardeno, with another white man, left the building next to the restaurant where Williams worked to go over to the Union Hall. The men who, apparently were union officials, stopped at the back door of the restaurant where Williams was standing and said something to him. He had never seen either of them before, the defendant testified. Norfolk, Va.

The next night Ardeno, who was alone at this time, came from the same direction and asked Williams if he worked at the restaurant. When the defendant replied "Yes," Ardeno is said to have remarked, "Well, why in the hell don't you get back in there where you belong?" Sat. 11-1-47

WORDS EXCHANGED

The defendant then stated that he did not work for Ardeno and told the deceased he had nothing to do with it. Ardeno, testimony showed, thereupon picked up an iron bar that was holding one of the double doors open, apparently preparing to strike the defendant. was standing just outside the

The defendant, it was stated, screen door, listening to the music coming from across the street at Union Hall. He had just placed a steak on the stove which he had cut with a butcher knife which he held still in his hand. Defender

Fearing that the white man was about to seriously injure him, Williams stabbed him near the heart. Ardeno died instantly.

Williams then ran up the street, came back and requested a white employee, a Mr. Glarz, to call the ambulance. Joe Mosquero who was on the scene, advised the defendant not to run and call the police. Sat. 11-1-47

Testimony indicated that the defendant did not know the deceased, held no animosity towards him and had never been arrested before except twice for driving without an operator's license.

Police Slayer Loses Plea For Reprieve

Balto

Journal & Guide

Norfolk, Va.

RICHMOND — No reprieve will be granted Raymond Laurence, who was sentenced to be electrocuted Oct. 24 for slaying a Newport News policeman on Aug. 11, 1946, Col. Richard W. Copeland, chairman of the state board of pardons and reprieves, Said Oct. 7. Sat. 10-25-47

The announcement was made following a petition presented by Laurence's attorneys. It was delayed for an entire day while the board studied the case in detail.

The Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals had already refused a writ of error for the condemned.

Laurence was convicted of murder after the policeman, Doughty, was shot to death in a taxi while investigating a robbery in Richmond's waterfront section.

Arguing on behalf of the prisoner were R. Wendell Walker of Newport News and Victor J. Ashe of Norfolk.

Worker Acquitted in Bi-racial Killing

Afro American

RICHMOND — Napoleon Williams, 39, indicted by the September grand jury for the butcher knife slaying of John Ardeno, white, July 18, was acquitted in Hastings Court last week by Judge John L. Ingram on the defendant's plea of self-defense.

Ardeno was slain during an encounter with Williams outside the kitchen door of a restaurant at the corner of Laurel and Broad Sts., where the latter was employed as a cook at the time. Stabbed in the breast with the knife, Ardeno died almost instantly.

The defendant was represented by Martin A. Martin of the NAACP legal staff, representing the local branch to which Williams appealed for legal aid. He has no relatives and is an orphan, according to an investigation made by S. W. Robinson 3rd and W. Lester Banks.

Baltimore, Md.

Man's Plea Investigated

Mr. Robinson, partner in the law firm of Hill, Martin and Robinson with Mr. Martin, and Mr. Banks, executive secretary of the State Conference of NAACP Branches, recommended that the local branch aid the accused man following their investigation.

Facts brought out in testimony were that on the night previous to the slaying, Ardeno and another man, also white, and both believed to be union officials, meddled with Williams as they passed the rear door of the restaurant on the way to a union hall across the street. 10-18-47

The night of the slaying, Ardeno, alone, again walked past the door, asked Williams if he worked there, and received an affirmative answer. He then reportedly asked Williams, "Why in the h— don't you get back in there where you belong?"

Talked Back to Him

Williams testified that he told the man that he (Ardeno) had nothing to do with that, whereupon Ardeno picked up an iron bar that was holding open one of the double doors to the restaurant kitchen, apparently with the intention of striking him with it.

The defendant said he had just cut a steak with a butcher knife he had in his hand, placed the meat on the stove, and was standing just outside the kitchen door, listening to the music being played at the union hall across the street.

Fearing bodily harm or death, Williams said, he stabbed Ardeno near the heart with the knife, then ran up the street in his excitement, came back and asked a white fellow employee to call an ambulance. Joe Mosquera urged him not to run away and called police.

Williams testified that he did not know the man, had no animosity towards him and had never before been arrested except on two occasions for auto traffic law violations.

Legal Sentence (Washington)

14c 1947

Youth, 20, condemned to death for murder

Los Angeles Calif. Tribune

TACOMA — James B. Mitchell, 20, convicted of first degree murder in the shooting last December of Dr. John R. Thompson, white, in a robbery, has been condemed to death. Date of sentence has not been set. Sat. 5-3-47

Teague Dies Of Bullet Wounds

World 14c

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. —(SNS)— The second Negro within eight days has been slain here by city police. Memphis, Tenn.

George Teague, of 1349 15th St., S. W. died at 2:30 a. m. January 18 of bullet wounds allegedly from the gun of D. F Gibson, an off-duty officer. Tues. 1-21-47

Teague was killed when he and fou rother men allegedly 'rushed' the police officer and his wife as the couple are said to have attempted to board an Avondale bus about 11 p. m. Friday night on Second Ave

A coroner's inquest was scheduled for yesterday following an "investigation."

Ike Williams, 32 was slain by Detective C. D. Bassett when the former allegedly "resisted arrest" on January 11.

Bellicose Negro Shot Fatally By Policeman

The News 14c (Ala)

Birmingham Ala

A Negro, identified by police as George Teague, of 1349 15th Street, Southwest, was fatally shot last night during an altercation between Officer D. F. Gibson and five Negroes. Sat. 1-18-47

Witnesses said the altercation took place when Officer Gibson, who was off duty, was boarding an Avondale bus with his wife at 18th Street and Second Alley North about 11 p.m. At the time of the fatal shooting, witnesses told police, the officer was being rushed by five Negroes, one of whom had an open knife in his hand.

According to Officer Gibson's report, his wife had stepped on the bus and he was about to follow her when an unidentified Negro grabbed him and pulled him back. Gibson said he pushed the Negro away, and at that time, Teague approached and made threatening remarks at this point, Teague and the other Negroes rushed the officer, who had his back to the bus. Gibson said he pulled his pistol and fired once to halt the Negroes, but they continued to advance. Witnesses said Teague had an open knife in his hand. Gibson said he then fired again the bullet striking the Negro and dropping him.

Police said Teague had an open knife in his pocket when searched later at Hillman Hospital. He died at 2:30 a.m. today.

Also investigating are Detectives C. L. Pearce and M. O. Thorn.

Coroner Joe L. Hilderbrand said he was investigating the shooting and would return a finding next week.

Let Us Think About It

The News 14c

An occasional letter-writer to this newspaper, J. Melancon, recently contributed some of his opinions about "two standards of justice." Mr. Melancon has been disturbed over what he obviously considers to be a failure in this region to apply the law in certain cases. After mentioning the Georgia lynching of four Negroes last year, he referred to a case in the Bessemer district last February when, as he recalls it, "an unarmed Negro was killed by the officer who arrested him." He notes that this newspaper editorialized that the case should be investigated further despite a coroner's verdict that the slaying was justified. But nothing more was done.

Birmingham Ala

Mr. Melancon also has been troubled by the more recent shooting of a Negro at the Westfield camp of T. C. I. by a company policeman. In that case, reportedly, a Negro had been detained by an officer on a complaint that he had made some "insulting remarks" to a white woman. While in the custody of the policeman, it appears, the Negro was killed; when the Negro attempted to put his hand in his pocket, it was reported, the policeman shot his prisoner and killed him. Subsequently the verdict of the Bessemer Cutoff coroner was given: justifiable homicide. This made the second such verdict in a single year to be issued following a shooting in the western part of the district. Mon. 1. 6. 47

It is easy to understand Mr. Melancon's concern, for obviously he feels keenly that the principles of a nation, of a state or city cannot be abridged without great danger to all the populace. Clearly enough his unasked but obvious question is, had the victims in these two cases been white men, would verdicts of justifiable homicide have been rendered, and if they had been, would they have been accepted so quietly by the public? If Mr. Melancon goes rather far in stating that evidence points toward this not being a land of justice, freedom and truth, it is not difficult to appreciate his feeling.

Did these two cases receive the attention they deserved? Certainly it ought to appear obvious that an officer apprehending any prisoner first should make sure he is unarmed, and then it would not matter how many times he put his hand in his pocket. But our people are plagued with many personal problems these days, and they often do not become greatly concerned over important matters. We would do well, however, to remind ourselves that indifference to justice can be very dangerous.

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egro Shot To Death After Candy Company Safe Is Ripped Open

His Companions Escape With $250; Policeman Thwarts Hotel Robbery

Birmingham Ala.

One Negro was dead and his companions were being sought today in connection with the safe burglary of the Wynn-Knox Candy Company, 717 Second Avenue, North, early yesterday.

Police identified the dead Negro as Robert Beard, 32, a former state convict. They said he was shot by Police Officer C. L. Tucker a half block from the candy company building. The Negro was wearing gloves and had a crowbar in his hand when shot, Officers Tucker and J. E. White reported.

A resident in the vicinity of the candy company office saw Beard acting in a "suspicious manner" with a crowbar in his hand and called police to investigate, the officers said.

Mon. 5-26-47

SEVERAL POLICE CARS, cruising in the vicinity, converged on the scene. Beard was shot as he fled and ignored orders to stop.

Officials of the candy company said a check revealed $250 was missing from the safe, which had been ripped open. No money was found on Beard.

City Detectives E. B. Lewis and J. C. Lance reported several burglary tools were found near the safe. They expressed belief the dead Negro was one of several who were connected with a series of safe "ripping jobs" in the city recently.

Beard, the detectives said, lived at 215 North Ninth Street. They said he had been sentenced to prison several years ago for grand larceny. The two young morning shift officers came upon Beard about 5:35 a.m. Sunday, shortly after he had left the scene of the safe burglary, the detectives said.

* * *

SAFE BURGLARS ENTERED the Tankar Service Station at No. 15 South 18th Street over the weekend and sawed off the dial and handle of the safe, but failed to get the safe open, police reported.

Entrance to the service station was gained through a rear window. Police said the attempted safe burglary appeared to be "an amateur job." The News.

Police Officer Jack Warren, making his rounds early today, interrupted what he said was an attempted holdup at the Gilbert Hotel downtown and placed Albert Russell Scroggins, 27, a parachute jumper, from Little Rock, Ark., in jail. Birmingham Ala

THE OFFICER, who has served only 15 months on the force, said as he entered the hotel lobby, the customary greetings from the clerk was not given.

He noticed H. J. Miller, the clerk, and two Negro bellboys, Ursel Walters and Willie James, standing in a corner behind the counter. Scroggins was standing nearby.

As he started to leave, the officer said, one of the bellboys reached over and touched him on the shoulder and shouted Scroggins was attempting to rob them.

A search of Scroggins, the officer said, revealed no weapon, but the clerk and bellboys told him Scroggins held his hand in his right coat pocket, told them, "This is a holdup and if you make a false move, I'll kill you!"

Scroggins told Officer Warren he had come to Birmingham for the Air Carnival. He carried a license as a parachute jumper, although he has a paralyzed left hand, the officer said.

POLICE ALSO REPORTED today they prevented the possible theft of several hundred pounds of sugar at Wylam.

A Wylam officer found the back door open at the Zannis Bakery, 4221 Seventh Avenue, Wylam, and the sugar stacked nearby.

A truck was found in the alley. The sugar was valued at $121.

Police said the truck had been stolen from the residence of Arthur Duke, 4529 Georgia Road. It was owned by the Duke Coal & Coke Company in West End. Mon. 5-26-47

Series Of Burglaries Traced To Negro Killed By Detective

Montgomery Advertiser 14c

After breaking into a cabin at the White Castle Tourist Court, Holt Street and Fairview Avenue, and resisting arrest, Lucius White, alias Eugene White, 31-year-old Negro and ex-convict, was shot and killed by Detective W. L. King at 4 a.m. Sunday, Police Chief Ralph B. King said last night. Montgomery, Ala.

Chief King said that loot later found in White's possession identified him as the man who had broken into a house occupied by John C. Butler, Negro, 11 Westcott Street, sometime after 2 a.m. Sunday, while Butler was sleeping. Mon. 6-9-47

"After entering Butler's house, which he looted of $5 in cash, two quarts of whisky, and a woman's wrist watch valued at $40, White made his getaway in Butler's automobile that was parked in the front yard," Chief King said.

According to police authorities, the White Castle Tourist Court had been forcefully entered "several times" during the past 60 days, and it was learned that Mrs. C. L. Crawford, owner, had asked for special police protection.

Detective King said that he was "cruising" the area around the tourist courts when he encountered White after he had broken into one of the cabins. King said that he attempted to arrest White as he was preparing to enter the building and that the Negro immediately charged toward him.

Police Chief King said that evidence indicated that White was in the act of resisting arrest when the detective fired two shots into the burgler's abdomen, killing him instantly. The car which White had stolen earlier from Butler was found parked near the scene of the shooting. Mon. 6-9-47

Coroner's Report

After an investigation of the incident, Coroner M. B. Kirkpatrick said that the Negro's death was justifiable homicide.

Chief King said that Chief of Detectives Lewis Miller, Police Captain G. J. Ruppenthal, and Detective J. R. Eiland, made a thorough search of White's house at 205 Maggie Street Sunday morning, and that a large quantity of the loot found there indicated that White had been responsible for a large number of the burglaries which have been occurring lately. White was identified as the man who entered the same cabin approximately 90 days before he was killed.

Mattie White, the burglar's wife, told police officers that her husband "stayed at home during the day and brought all this stuff in on nights."

Among the large quantity of loot discovered by the police search, a wrist watch, a pair of earrings, a gold sword and chain, a fraternity, and a breast pin, linked White with the robbery of a house occupied by Beulah Smothers, Negro, 133 Thurman Street.

Police say that White had a long and varied criminal career, having served two terms in Kilby Prison for burglary and grand larceny and one in a federal penitentiary for the theft of government property. Chief King said that White had been arrested "at least 20 times" for different offenses since he was 18 yeras old. Mon. 6-9-47

Chief King commended Detective King on his action and praised the other law enforcement officers in regaining the stolen property.

Among the articles found in White's house were five pair of glasses, two suitcases, two cameras, six pawn tickets, four cigaret lighters, six make-up compacts, five sets of auto keys, one thermometer, 10 fountain pens, one 25 cal. automatic pistol, two pair gloves, (one pair of which White had on when killed), three wallets, two money bags, several old coins, three necklaces, two discharge buttons, three pairs of earrings, one rosary, two balls of knitting wool, one ice pick (on his person when he was killed), two locks, one tape measure, one shoe horn, three knives, one desk clock, one military set, three breast pins, several ration coupons.

"Invisible" laundry marks will aid police in identifying clothing also found in White's possession.

Chief King said, "we have suspected White for the past 30 days and were watching out for him."

Escaped Convict, Shot By Patrolman, Dies Of 'Pulmonary Embolus'

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Pulmonary embolus was the cause of death of a Negro convict who died at Camp Troy yesterday shortly after he had escaped and had been recaptured after being shot, Assistant Safety Director Bankhead Bates said last night. Wed. 8-20-47

Bates quoted Dr. James O. Colley, Jr., Troy, as saying the pulmonary embolus followed gunshot wounds that led to the recapture of the convict.

The following account of the event was given by Bates:

At 1:30 yesterday Highway Patrolmen Joe Gafford and L. E Newman, stationed at Troy, received a call that a 38-year-old Negro, Charley McDeamon, serving from 45 to 60 years for burglary and grand larceny, had escaped from Camp Troy and was headed toward Orion.

About six miles out of Troy the Patrolmen saw the convict on the back of a truck and stopped the vehicle. When that happened the escaped prisoner jumped from the truck and ran into a field alongside the road, followed by Patrolman Newman.

After about 150 yards the Negro turned and picked up a "large" rock and threatened Newman, who was only about 15 feet away, with it. Wed. 8-20-47

The patrolman then shot the convict in the leg, two inches above the knee. When that happened the prisoner dropped the rock and began running again. He went on for a half mile before he dropped and was captured.

Driven back to Camp Troy, he was pronounced dead when examined by Dr. Colley, who said death resulted from "pulmonary mbolus following gunshot wounds." Wed. 8-20-47

McDeamon, alias Charley Holm, was serving from 15 to 20 years each on three charges of grand larceny and burglary, Bates said. He was sentenced from Jefferson County in 1930.

Gadsden Police Officer Kills Negro In Row

Montgomery, Ala
Advertiser

GADSDEN, ALA., Aug. 30.—(AP)—Coroner Jess Cox said a Gadsden police officer shot and killed a Negro today after the officer was felled by a jug of "homebrew." Sun 8-31-47

The coroner said Horace Williams, 38, died in a local hospital shortly after he was shot by Patrolman J. G. Roberts, who was attempting to arrest him.

The officer was knocked to the ground by the jug, Cox said.

Policeman Is Wounded; Negro Killed

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

J. S. Yarbrough Felled In Attempt To Arrest Fugitive, Ex-Convict

Sun. 10-19-47

2 Bystanders Hurt

Assailant Is Shot After Alleged Effort To Grab Weapon From Detective

By TONY WALKER

J. S. Yarbrough, city policeman, was shot and seriously injured, two Negro by-standers were wounded, one of them critically, and a Negro, whom police said was the gunman, was killed yesterday afternoon, following a disturbance in a Negro cafe near Monroe and Lawrence Streets.

The gunman, identified by police as a former federal prisoner, and wanted for murder and arson in Elmore County, was said by Police Captain Thomas H. Goins to have been shot and killed when he battled with police in a squad car and after his capture several blocks away. Advertiser

The shooting in which Yarbrough was wounded, took place in front of the Douglass Cafe at the corner of Lawrence and Monroe Streets after Officers Yarbrough and E. Dennis went to the cafe to arrest two Negroes who had been causing a disturbance. Dennis said that as he and Yarbrough were conducting the Negroes to a squad car, another Negro grabbed Yarbrough from behind, at which time Yarbrough's prisoner, identified, with aliases, as Hezekiah Humphrey, Jr., snatched Yarbrough's pistol from its scabbard and shot him in the abdomen. Sun. 10-19-47

Dennis said that Humphrey then aimed the pistol at him and told him not to move or he'd fire, at which time Dennis' prisoner, as yet unidentified, broke away and made his escape.

Fire Exchanged

When something distracted Humphrey, Dennis said he took cover behind a fire alarm box and drew his pistol. The Negro was then said to have shot at Dennis twice, missing him, and to have run north on Lawrence Street, firing once more at the officer. Dennis said he shot once at the Negro, felling him, but that he quickly got up and continued down the street.

Seeing that his partner had been badly hurt, and that another officer was pursuing the Negro gunman, Dennis put Yarbrough in the squad car and took him to a hospital, where an operation was said by Police Surgeon Charles Lafferty to have been ordered immediately.

Within a very few minutes, Police Cap. Goins and Detectives M. S. Chisholm and E. Y. Lacey arrived on the scene, and said they were directed north on Lawrence Street to Columbus and then east to McDonough and north on McDonough to where the Negro was seen to have fled. The officers were told he could be identified by a torn shirt.

Capt. Goins said they saw the Negro jogging north on McDonough Street, opposite the Acme Feed and Fuel Company, and that they pulled up to the curb and covered him with their weapons. The Negro was searched by one of the officers and put in the squad car, after Yarbrough's pistol with four empty cartridges was recovered from him. Montgomery, Ala

In the car, the Negro was said by Detective Lacey to have complained that he had been shot in the side. Lacey said that as he reached over to pull up the Negro's shirt, to see the wound, Humphrey grabbed at his gun and the two grappled in the back seat of the squad car.

Coroner Calls Act 'Justifiable Homicide'

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa

(14C)

(From The Courier Birmingham Correspondent)

FAIRFIELD, Ala.—Two burly Fairfield city police officers allegedly shot to death Johnnie Jones, 21, World War II veteran and football player of Westfield High School, Sunday night, Nov. 23, with Coroner T. J. McCollum of the Bessemer Cut-Off returning a finding of "justifiable homicide." 12-6-47. Sat

The youth, rescribed by Westfield Principal C. L. Reeves as "a fine boy who gave us no trouble" lived with his mother at 439 Parkway, in the Westfield Village.

POLICE MUM

Police Officers J. W. Hawkins and W. C. Dean, who were said to be involved in the slaying, declined to give newspaper reporters an account of the shooting, referring them instead to the coroner who merely listed his findings.

The youth went to school in the day and worked on the eight-hour 11 P. M. shift at the blast furnace of the T. C. I. Company, it was said.

It was said that the youth was shot in the parking lot of the Tin Mill, which serves as entrance also for employes working at the blast furnace. There were no known eye-witnesses to the tragedy except the two involved officers.

CAR "BORROWING" 12-6-47

It was reported that a band of youths had been driving cars of the parking lot riding in them while their owners were at work, some times wrecking them and leaving the gasoline tanks empty, and that Jones was returning a car, said to be that of one of his friends, when he was shot.

It was said that Jones was given permission by a friend to use his car one day prior to the slaying, and that on the day of the tragedy he took the auto without consent, and was getting out of it when the officers shot him.

The acocunt heard in the community from the police side is to the effect that they caught Jones getting out of what they thought was a stolen car, after being called to the scene to investigate. They said they ordered him to halt as he broke to run and that when overtaken, the youth picked up a brick to throw at them and was shot down. Jones was said to be shot in the back of the head and in the face. 12-6-47

Funeral services for the youth were held last Sunday at the Hopewell Baptist Church with the Rev. W. Atmore offiicating. The body was forwarded to Boothton for burial.

NEGRO POLICEMAN KILLED IN MIAMI BY WHITE OFFICER

The Fla. Tattler

14c

Miami, March 8—John Young, 32, Negro policeman, was accidentally shot by a white officer early Saturday, as thieves were robbing a fish market. Jacksonville, Fla.

Miami officials said MacFarland and Young were chasing the thieves and became separated, an dthat MacFarland fired at Young, thinking he was one of the men they were seeking. Young died in a hospital several hours later. Sat. 3-15-47

This is the second Negro policeman killed in Miami.

Miami NAACP Investigates

Blazing Police Guns Mow Down 3 Floridians

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

By JOHN A. DIAZ

(Florida Bureau)

Sat. 9-13-47

MIAMI, Fla.—Three times in the past week blazing guns in the hands of white police officers here mowed down Negro men . . . and in each instance the explanation given for the killings has been the same—the Negroes resisted the officers. Two killings took place in South Miami on Sunday, and tension ran high, threatening to explode into riots. Sat. 9-13-47

After police cars loaded with officers carrying machine guns patrolled South Miami streets, rumors of a race riot already in progress there reached this city. The tension subsided, however, and there was no open conflict.

NEGRO CUT OFFICER

Luther Baity, 47, under arrest after a traffic accident, was shot and killed by Deputy Sheriff W. C Bailey in South Miami after Baity had allegedly become unruly in the police car en route to headquarters. Bailey charged that Baity attacked him with a knife inflicting painful injuries.

Later that night, A. C. Hopkins was killed by two white officers in South Miami. Negro leaders in the area declared the Hopkins shooting was not justified, although he was reportedly resisting arrest.

SHOOTING "JUSTIFIABLE"

Earlier last week a white probationary officer, Thomas C. Cort, was exonerated for the fatal shooting of Detroit Robinson, a Miami Negro, after a magistrate held that the shooting was justifiable homicide. Sat. 9-13-47

The NAACP is investigating the two South Miami shootings, although armed only with meager information. South Miami police headquarters had not divulged any details of the shootings.

Investigate Killing Of Negro Convict

14c

Atlanta Daily World

MIAMI, Fla. — (SNS) —

An investigation into the slaying of a Negro convict, killed while trying to escape last week from the Panama City convict camp, was imminent this week, following a criticism by State Sen. Carl Gray Elgin Bayless, of the state road department said that he "would welcome an investigation." Atlanta, Ga.

The slain convict, Issac Harris, serving an eight year sentence, was shot to death by Lt. Clyde Carlan and Patrolman Edward Dugger of the state highway patrol after an attempted break August 31 last.

Sen. Gray, news analyst for a Panama City radio station, who was primarily responsible for the defeat of Sen. Matthew's white primary legislation, incited the hostility of prison officials when he was observed talking with some of the convicts. Fri. 9-12-47

The prison captain remonstrated with Sen. Gray, relative to talking to prisoners without permission. Sen. Gray hinted an investigation whereon Bayless replied: "I would welcome an investigation myself."

MIAMI COP ARRESTED IN FATAL SHOOTING OF NEGRO

Daily Worker N.Y.N.Y.

MIAMI, Sept. 24.—Patrolman R. O. Wiegand was charged this week with second degree murder for the fatal shooting of A. C. Hopkins, 32, a Negro. Peace Justice O B. Sutton set Wiegand's bail at $2,500.

Three witnesses testified at the inquest that they saw the cop hit Hopkins with a blackjack, and that when Hopkins turned and walked away Wiegand shot him dead. They all agreed Hopkins said as he turned, "If you shoot me, you shoot me for nothing."

The witnesses were found by Leo Sheiner, attorney for Hopkins family and for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Sat.

In Florida

Cop Shot Vet In Back, 3 Witnesses Say

9-20-47

Pittsburgh Courier Pa.

By JOHN A. DIAZ

(Florida Bureau)

MIAMI, Fla.—The fate of Patrolman R. O. Wiegand, white, who fatally shot A. C. Hopkins, a World War II veteran, will be hanging in the balance here Friday when an inquest probing the ex-GI's death will be resumed in the hope of securing more pertinent testimony.

Meanwhile, The Pittsburgh Courier learned early this week that several eye witnesses were planning to testify against Wiegand with statements that Hopkins had been shot in the back as he walked away from the officer, who allegedly, had blackjacked him. Sat.

The reported witnesses, Ruby Lee Hall, Aggie Bing and Geraldine Ponder, also claimed that Hopkins was neither drunk nor armed.

Hopkins was shot by Wiegand in South Miami on Sept. 10.

CHALLENGED BY NAACP Sat.

Atty. Leo Sheiner, who is representing the NAACP and the dead vet's family, is pushing the case to see that a thorough investigation of the vet's shooting is made.

The witnesses above mentioned contend that Wiegand struck Hopkins with a blackjack. The veteran hit the officer with his fist and the patrolman shot him as he turned and walked away. 9-20-47

BULLET IN BACK

The physician who performed the autopsy, Dr. Robert V. Edward of Jackson, declared that one bullet struck Hopkins in the left upper arm and penetrated his heart; a second struck him in the forearm and passed into his side, and a third struck him in the back near the waistline. 9-20-47

Wiegan's story, according to Chief E. W. McKinney of South Miami, is that when the patrolman ordered Hopkins to go home because of drunkeness and disorderly conduct, that the veteran used obscene language, refused to go and struck the officer.

Wiegand claims he then brought his black jack into play and fired four times when Hopkins reached inside his shirt.

Prosecutor Contends No Break Intended In Prison Camp Slayings

Birmingham, News
Birmingham, Ala.

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Nov. 4—(AP)—A federal prosecutor, summing up six days of testimony, told a jury there was no evidence that convicts planned a break last July 11 when eight Negro prisoners were shot and killed at the Glynn County Camp. Tue. 11-4-47

Former Warden H. G. Worthy and four of his guards, on trial for depriving the prisoners of rights guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution, contend unruly prisoners balked at road work in a plan to escape.

Four former guards indicted with Worthy gave their version of the mass slaying yesterday. They repeated Worthy's story that one of the prisoners lunged at the warden before the latter fired. They said 27 prisoners involved in the disorder then started running and that some were shot while advancing toward guards.

THEIR STORIES completed testimony in the case. Both sides were given one hour for arguments and attorneys began presenting the government's side yesterday. The case was expected to reach the jury today. Tue. 11-4-47

Greene B. Everitt, assistant district attorney, told the jury it would have to decide whether there was a "genuine" attack made on the guards before the firing started.

Everitt said none of the 27 prisoners standing in a group in the camp made a break until the warden fired at one. He said that the prisoners "couldn't stand in that huddle, with bullets coming at them."

The government built its case around stories of surviving Negroes, five of whom were wounded. They said they quit a ditch-cleaning job because they were forced to work in waist-deep water and that snakes had been killed at the spot. Twenty-seven of a detail of 40 refused to go on working and were taken back to camp where the shooting occurred.

WARDEN, AIDES FREED IN GEORGIA KILLINGS

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Nov. 4 (AP)—A Federal Court jury deliberated for eight minutes today and then freed a former Georgia prison camp warden and four of his guards of charges that they killed eight Negro convicts last July without cause. Times

Hearing of evidence in the case took six days.

State agencies, including a special committee of the legislature, previously had exonerated the warden, H. G. Worthy, and the guards. New York N.Y.

Today's verdict was received without demonstration from spectators who packed the small trial room in the Glynn County court house. Presiding Judge Frank M. Scarlett had warned against any outcry. Wed. 11-5-47

The trial brought conflicting stories of the slayings at a state highway prison camp in Glynn County near here. Mr. Worthy and the guards said a mass escape attempt necessitated the shooting.

Survivors of the twenty-seven Negro convicts who were assembled in the prison yard after refusing to work on a road detail said there was no escape attempt.

The alleged ring leader of the convicts, Willie Bell, testified that the warden had been drinking before the shooting, and called him from the assembled convicts with the threat "I'm going to kill you."

The guards claimed the convicts were armed with iron bars when the shooting started. The prisoners said they were not.

Freed today with Worthy were Guy McNabb, Remer Bazemore, W. C. Lawler and H. L. Holmes.

Convict Says Negroes Shot Lying Down

U. S. Jury Told of Fear In Georgia Prison Camp

From Wire Dispatches.

Brunswick, Ga., Oct. 28.—A Negro convict told a Federal Court jury today that guards at a South Georgia prison camp shot Negro prisoners as they lay on the ground after the first round of shots had felled several July 11.

Eight Negro prisoners were shot to death in the prison camp.

James Maxwell, serving a term for burglary, testified that guards went to men who were either wounded or lying down to escape the fire, and shot them.

Can't Name Guards.

He said one guard yelled, after shooting a man on the ground, "We got this black . . . "

Maxwell said he was unable to name the guards who fired at men lying on the ground.

Convict Willie Bell, testifying in the trial of former Warden H. G. Worthy and four former guards for alleged violation of the prisoners' civil rights, said that on the day of the shooting fear among the prisoners was so great they had resigned themselves to death before the shooting started.

Brandished Pick Handles.

Bell and other convicts said the warden had brandished pick handles and brass knucks. One said the warden was drinking the day the eight were "mowed down" with shotguns and a tommy gun. Others earlier had told of death threats against prisoners.

The Government charges the convicts were killed without just cause after they had refused to work in a snake-infested ditch. The defense contends the officers shot in self-defense after Bell had lunged at the warden. The officers charged the prisoners were rebellious and threatening.

Bell testified that the warden told him, "I'm gonna kill you, Pee Wee."

Wouldn't Die With Shoes On

"I took off my shoes when the warden started into the stockade," Bell said, "'cause I didn't want to die with them on."

He added, "When Mr. Worthy shot me, all the other shootin' started at once. He gave the order for them to shoot. Somebody knocked me down and that saved my life."

All the men testifying today said the convicts had not attempted to escape, but had broken and run after Worthy had fired at Bell.

Convicts Testify on Shootings

CONSTITUTION

BRUNSWICK, Oct. 28—(AP)—A Negro convict told a Federal Jury that guards at the Glynn County convict camp shot prisoners as they lay on the ground after the first round of shots felled several men. Atlanta, Ga.

Eight Negro prisoners were shot to death in the prison camp on July 11. 10-29-47

James Maxwell, serving a term for burglary, testified that guards went to men who were either wounded or laying down to escape the fire and shot them.

He said that one guard yelled after shooting the man on the ground, "We got this black——"

Maxwell said he was unable to identify by name the guards that fired at men lying on the ground.

Five convicts giving their side of the story at Tuesday's session told the Jury the Warden and guards had instilled so much fear in the prisoners they broke and ran when the Warden fired at one. Wed.

They told of pick handles and brass knucks being wielded or brandished by the Warden. One of them said the Warden was drinking on the day the eight were "mowed down" with shotguns and a "tommygun." Others previously had told of death threats against prisoners.

Former Warden H. G. Worthy and four former camp guards are on trial for alleged violation of civil rights of the prisoners. The Government charges they killed the men without just cause.

The defense claims the prisoners rebelled against work, threatened to take over the camp and that guards fired on the Negroes in defense of their own lives.

Fear among the prisoners was so great that the men had resigned themselves to death on the day of the shooting, Willie Bell, alleged ringleader of a group of 27 prisoners, told the jury.

Bell said several prisoners removed their shoes because they knew they were going to die, and didn't want to go with their shoes on. Federal prosecutors questioned each convict on this point, and most of the five agreed with him.

All of the five said the convicts had not attempted to escape, but broke and ran after Warden Worthy fired at Bell. Maxwell testified that after the Warden shot Bell, Russell Hnderson, County Police Chief, waved a tommygun shouted "Boys, this is it," and started shooting.

Henderson is not under indictment in the case. Warden Worthy and Guards Guy McNabb, Remer Bazemore, H. L. Holmes and W. C. Lawler are defendants. They were absolved of blame by a Coroner's Jury, a County Grand Jury, and a Special Committee of the Georgia Legislature.

The convicts said the disturbance stemmed from refusal of 27 prisoners to work in a water-filled, snake-infested ditch. The five men testified the Warden separated the 27 from a group of about 40, and returned them to camp.

Bell declared the Warden obtained two pick handles, and held one while he addressed a line-up up the prisoners. He said the Warden asked him to step out, declaring "Peewee, I'm going to kill you."

Bell said he was convinced the Warden would kill him, and did not come out of the line. He denied a defense charge that he lunged at the Warden, declaring the latter fired at him from 15 feet. Bell was wounded slightly in the hip. Wed.

"Then the guards started firing and the men started running! Some tried to get under the barracks building," Bell said.

The convicts denied they had any weapons, but defense attorneys pointed to a picture showing a flare held in the hand of one of the dead convicts. The defense also called attention to two pieces of iron pipe shown lying on the ground of the camp after the shooting, and suggested these could have been used by prisoners as "dangerous weapons."

Dist. Atty. J. Saxton Daniel questioned Bell about the iron pipe. Bell said he noticed them lying on the ground before the shooting started.

Willie J. Chapman, another prisoner, declared there was only one piece of iron pipe on the ground, and it was used daily to beat the "ding-dong" that awakened the prisoners, called them to dinner and sent them to bed.

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tions, entered the Austrian government service in 1932, when he was named Minister to Justice and later Minister of Education. When Chancellor Dollfuss was assinated in July 1934, he asked on his deathbed that he be succeeded by Schuschnigg. Shortly thereafter, Schuschnigg was appointed by the Austrian government until Adolf Hitler demanded his resignation and took him prisoner March 12, 1938. 10-31-44

Civil Rights Frontier

Times-New York N.Y.

"If we cannot secure all our rights," Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1789, "let us secure what we can." America began the effort to secure the rights of its citizens with the Bill of Rights of 1791 and its assurances of freedom of religion, speech, press, trial by jury, etc. The struggle for civil rights has continued and expanded ever since. The Fifteenth Amendment of 1870 granted all races the right to vote; the Nineteenth Amendment of 1933 guaranteed women's suffrage. But last week a Presidential committee reported: "The American ideal still awaits complete realization." Sunday

The group was the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Mr. Truman, concerned over such post-war phenomena as the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, named the committee of fifteen leading citizens last December to recommend "more adequate and effective means and procedures for the protection" of civil rights. On last Wednesday the committee delivered a 178-page report. It declared:

"We have learned much that has shocked us and much that has made us feel ashamed. * * * We have almost exclusively focused our attention on the bad side of our record—on what might be called the civil rights frontier." 11-2-47

On this "frontier" the committee found such well-known—and not so well-known—abuses as these: Sun.

Southern states supposedly have "separate but equal" schooling for Negroes and whites but "invariably" the equipment, curricula, expenditures and teachers' salaries in the Negro schools are inferior.

In some Northern schools "enrollment of Jewish students seems never to exceed certain fixed points"; and one medical school official admitted a prejudice against Irish Catholics.

The committee cited conditions in Washington as a "graphic illustration of a failure of democracy." There is racial segregation in schools, theatres, restaurants, transportation. In Washington's annual marbles tournament, separate eliminations are held for white and Negro boys. When the two winners remain, the white boy is automatically declared champion and sent to a national tournament, the Negro boy is "relegated to the position of runner-up." Sun.

The committee made thirty-three recommendations. Among them were: (1) establishment of a special FBI unit on civil rights; (2) Federal legislation against lynching, poll taxes, segregation in the armed forces, discrimination in employment; (3) state legislation against discrimination and segregation in schools, health services, public services; (4) full voting rights to District of Columbia citizens; (5) clarifying of the "loyalty obligations of Federal employes" to "protect the civil rights of public workers." The report said: "If we fall back upon hysteria and repression as our weapons against totalitarians we will defeat ourselves." 11-2-47

Observers noted that some of these

proposals—notably those on poll taxes and anti-lynching laws—have been perennials in Congress and have been repeatedly blocked by Southern delegations. There were no signs that prospects for their enactment had changed.

White Press On Civil Rights Report

Journal & Guide, Norfolk Va.

11

Sat. 11-8-47

PC-CR

By the NNPA News Service

The report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights drew editorial praise from the metropolitan dailies, but some editors, primarily in the South, dissented from its recommendations. Sat. 11-8-47

The Washington Post of Oct. 30, under the caption, "Inalienable Rights," said: "The document prepared by the committee is a heartening as well as an appalling one. The record of this nation falls far short of its pretensions; it is a record which gravely impedes the fulfillment of our aims in foreign affairs, which seriously undermines the development of our full strength and security at home. Yet the recognition of our shortcomings is the indispensable first step toward correction of them.

"A signal service to the nation has been performed by the men whom the President selected for this most important task. Their counsel must be pondered in the light of an understanding that freedom, like prosperity and peace, is indivisible, that the rights of all are no more secure than the rights of the least among us."

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The Washington Daily News, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, said the committee "has done the American people a signal service," adding: "Its thoughtful report . . . deserves earnest consideration."

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The Washington Evening Star adversely criticized the committee for singling out the District of Columbia "as the one sure place where its complete prescription for cure could and should be applied."

After suggesting that the solution of local problems be left to the people who must live with them and disagreeing with the committee's appraisal that the dual school system in Washington is "the core of Washington's segregated society," **The Star** said:

"The actual recommendations, however, seem to place far more dependence on compulsion under law than on divine guidance or the character, the vision, and the high principle of our people."

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11-8-47

The New York Times saw as the central point in the report "a reaffirmation of an old principle," enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal." Sat.

Calling the recommendations of the committee bold and conceding that not all of them "will get through Congress as long as the filibuster is permitted," **The Times** pointed out that progress in living up to this principle has been made "in the armed services, in labor unions, in laws in northern states, in fairer and more liberal treatment of the Negro American in various southern states.

It added: "We can make more progress, in which the federal government, representing the whole people, must take increased responsibility. We can, as the committee suggests, make defense of the individual's 'dignity and integrity' an organized function of the Department of Justice, of committees in Congress, and of a standing executive commission. We need no new tradition. We need not go beyond Jefferson's noble words.

"We need to accept in fullness, for modern conditions, an old tradition, that men should not be discriminated against for race, religion, or belief. We owe this to ourselves, individually and collectively.

"We owe it to our position in the world: 'The United States is not so strong, the final triumph of the democratic ideal so inevitable, that we can ignore what the world thinks of us on our record.'

"With freedom and equality goes responsibility. The committee might have underlined this truth more even than it did. We have a right to demand that enemies of our democratic system disclose themselves and their sources of revenue. But in the last analysis, in congressional hearings or elsewhere, it is better that one man be allowed to abuse his freedom than that another be wrongly deprived of it."

* * * *

The specific recommendations of the committee, consolidated into a single program, said **The New York Herald Tribune**, "make up a massive attack upon prejudice itself—an attack on the blindness, the barbarisms, the denials of right and opportunity which might have a real chance of massive success."

It added: "Here is an outline, thoroughly reasoned, of what can and ought to be done. The difficulties of doing it all would obviously be great, but the very boldness of the proposals gives them their strength. This is not simply a program for dealing with one or another abuse. It is a program for justice and freedom; as such it should command not only the support but the enthusiasm of Americans."

The report "is especially timely," said the **Philadelphia Inquirer**, "because of the avidity with which foreign propagandists seize upon certain evils in our national life to try to prove the failure of democracy."

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On the other hand, the **Baltimore Sun** was critical of the section of the report respecting the right to equality of opportunity. While conceding that some of the committee's proposals "for strengthening the federal law respecting civil rights in areas where the federal jurisdiction is clear under the Constitution are worthy of careful consideration," **The Sun** said:

"But the committee errs rather generally in seeking to extend federal authority into the jurisdiction of the states. And though a substantial minority of its members dissents on some of the touchiest issues, the majority of the committee would actually try by law to settle intricate social problems which truly wise and compassionate men understand will yield only to education and evolution."

11-8-47.

Calling the report "a challenging program," the **Baltimore Evening Sun** expresses the opinion that "expedients like the civil rights section of the Department of Justice" is a "more promising approach to the highly desirable goals which the committee envisages" than federal and state action.

The chief value of the report, **The Evening Sun** said, lies "in the fact that it will stimulate thought about the problems with which it deals. Indeed, the very emphasis on federal action will tend to provide the southern states to do something on their own. The alternative to federal action is state action.

"As a believer in local self-government, **The Evening Sun** regards local action as the only practical way of dealing with these things. The states can best forestall outside intervention in this matter by speeding up their own reforms."

Journal & Guide

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch declared that the report is a "monumental contribution to the never-ending fight to preserve and protect the basic principles of Americanism, and to extend those principles to those who do not now enjoy their safeguards."

The Post-Dispatch explained differences between the committee majority and minority by saying the majority "decided to go the whole way to set up a standard of strict adherence to principle, in the belief that such a position will hasten the day when principle will prevail." It said the gradualists on the committee reasoned "that their method, since it does not arouse such immediate and passionate antagonism, is the more likely of success."

Concluding, the St. Louis paper said: "In any event, the President's Committee on Civil Rights has appealed to the conscience and intelligence of America in a bold and forthright document."

Norfolk, Va.

Under the caption, "Coercive Laws are Unwise and Dangerous," the **Richmond Times-Dispatch** said: "If the program of federal legislation now proposed by the Civil Rights Commission were to be adopted by Congress in the near future, which seems completely unthinkable, the results in the southern states would be even worse than those in the nation under Prohibition. They would be worse because the explosive issue of race relations is involved, and it has been demonstrated time and again that when efforts are made to settle that question through passing coercive laws, conditions are made worse rather than better.

"Real progress in improving the lot of the Negro has been made in the South, and the nation, in the past generation. The lynching total has been so sharply reduced that these manifestations of the mob spirit have almost been eliminated from our national life. Opportunities which did not exist a short time ago are opening up for Negroes in business, industry, and the professions. Educational and health facilities are steadily growing better, and salaries and wages are being equalized.

"All this is being done without arousing interracial animosities; indeed, relations between the two groups are improving. But much of the genuine progress that has been made will be wiped out if, for political or other reasons, Congress succeeds in imposing radical solutions on the southern states. In that event, the Negro will be the first sufferer, and decades of progress in race relations will be lost."

* * * *

The Atlanta Constitution said: "However laudable may be the objectives laid down by the President's Committee, little good is accomplished, and much harm can result, from any attempt to force reforms which legitimately may come only in the course of time.

"We believe the committee's insistence upon immediate action is especially unwise at this particular time and that, instead of assisting in solving a serious problem, it serves only to confuse the issue.

"For racial segregation is merely an outward manifestation of an inner state of mind. Whether this state of mind is proper or improper is immaterial. It is there, and it can be eradicated not by law but only by the evolutionary process and the acquirement by the human race of the spiritual qualities which will effectively eliminate it."

Sat. 11-8-47

The Nashville Banner held: "It is no accident that the hue and cry, now echoed by this committee, originated in the left wing of imported politics, is most assiduously cultibated by an agency personifying a political system under which there are no civil rights, and that the recommendations are identical with what Henry Wallace has been hewing as his own plank."

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The Charlotte News said: "The committee's demand for upheavel now, certain to kindle anew the flames of southern resentment, will only serve to complicate that full realization of democratic ideals of freedom and equality and to delay its ultimate accomplishment."

Journal & Guide

The Mobile Register held that report "showed so little regard for state's rights and so little respect for the South."

* * * *

Norfolk, Va.

The Raleigh Times said: "Its recommendations to ban all manner of racial segregation, if put into effect, would tend to do irreparable harm to interracial relations which have been steadily improving in the South over a period of years."

The Memphis Commercial Appeal termed the report "No more than expected. It will delight the radical creators of dissension. It will gladden the hearts of do-gooders of other sections . . . obsessed with the idea of remodeling the South. It adds up to just another one of those things where a group which knows the least about the problems of the South is having the most to say about them."

Leaders Hail Draft For Its Implications

Daily Worker

Atlanta Ga.

11

Thur. 11-6-47.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Reactions to the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights were varied but generally favorable.

"I commend the President's Civil Rights Committee most highly for finding the facts regarding race segregation and discrimination in the District of Columbia," said Perry W. Howard, Republican national committeeman for Mississippi.

Mr. Howard contended, however, that the President could abolish the evils in the District of Columbia, about which the committee's report complained, by issuing a directive to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, who have general supervision over the public schools, the recreation department, and the licensing of places of public accomodation here. Thur. 11-6-47

A telegram to President Truman from Eugene Kinckle Jones, general secretary of the National Urban League, called the report "a document which in effect reiterates the Declaration of Independence and our Bill of Rights in a spirit which warms the hearts of all true and sincere Americans.

The Rev. W. H. Jernagin, of the Fraternal Council of Negro churches in America, in congratulating the President, said the committee had faced the facts and had had the courage to report what they found.

WILSON PRAISES REPORT

J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, congratulated Mr. Truman on the forthright manner in which the committee had come to grips with the "basic and fundamental inadequacies of the democratic way of life."

Colored people will test the declarations of the document, said Mr. Wilson, by the enactment of legislation carrying out the committee's recommendations.

Daily Worker

George B. Murphy, national commander of the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America, praised veterans are not so "naive" as to the report but declared that colored think that here publication of such a report would win justice "for our people in America." Atlanta, Ga.

He wrote President Truman that Jim Crow, lynching and denials of human dignity could never be destroyed without determined action of the part of the Government. Sat. 11-6-47

Senator Homer B. Ferguson, Republican, of Michigan, said he had not carefully read the report but "I have always been a strong advocate of civil rights. I think they are the very keystone upon which this country is founded—equal opportunity and equal justice under the law."

Exclusive Story Is Given to Courier By Commissioner

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

(14c) N [illegible]

Samuel Levine Says Prisoners Were 'Shot Down Like Dogs' — Calls Massacre An Outrage to Every Decent American— Urges Arrest of Warden and Guards

Sat 7-26-47

By JAMES E. BOYACK
(Exclusive to The Pittsburgh Courier)

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—As the Superior Court grand jury handed down its decision exonerating Warden H. W. Worthy and his seven guards in the bloody massacre in the stockade of State Highway Prison Camp 18, a sensational development in the case came when for the first time, a responsible Georgia public official called the butchery "a flagrant case of deliberate murder."

He demanded the arrest of the killers.

The official is Samuel A. Levine, Glynn County Commissioner, and prominent Brunswick businessman.

Commissioner Levine's statement came during an exclusive interview in his home, and resulted from a complete investigation of the massacre which he has been conducting since July 11, the day of the tragedy.

Because of the serious nature of the charges, the writer secured his sworn affidavit.

Commissioner Levine is widely and popularly known throughout the county and State. He won his last election with a sweeping majority of 4 to 1.

The State Board of Corrections in Atlanta announced that it withheld formal report on the slaying until the grand jury had handed down its findings. Over the week-end, the report had not yet been issued.

"SOBER MAN" Sat-7-26-47

J. B. Hatchett, assistant director of the State Department of Corrections who investigated the massacre on the scene, indicated that Warden Worthy's actions were those of "a sober man, trying to deal with a difficult situation."

WASHINGTON — Theron L. Caudle, assistant attorney general in charge of the Criminal Division of the U. S. Justice Department, told The Pittsburgh Courier that the Justice Department was investigating the Brunswick (Ga.) prison massacre.

Coroner J. D. Baldwin of Brunswick recessed his inquest at 4 P. M. Saturday, when he learned of the grand jury proceedings.

In his statement to The Pittsburgh Courier, Commissioner Levine declared:

"This was a flagrant case of deliberate murder. The prisoners did not have a chance. They obviously were not trying to escape."

He said that the warden and his guards should have been arrested on the technical charge of murder, pending the outcome of the grand jury proceedings.

"Instead, they have been at large, free to influence the most important witnesses in the case, who are the wounded men still in their custody, and the other prisoners at the camp who witnessed the debacle.

"Justice is blind while these prison officials are at large. This massacre was an outrage to every decent American. We fought the recent war to stamp out Hitlerism and the Gestapo everywhere. We must not now allow Hitlerism to flourish here at home. We must destroy it at once. And I think the best place to start is in State prison highway camp No. 18 right here in Glynn County," he said.

Sat-7-26-47

"IT WAS MURDER!" — Said County Commissioner Samuel A. Levine of Glynn County, Ga., in a sworn statement after an official investigation of the prison camp slayings.

Commissioner Levine's investigation included attending the autopsy which was performed by Brunswick Doctors McDaniel and Johnson, assisted by Dr. C. M. Wigfall, prominent colored physician.

He also conferred with Chief of Police Russell D. Henderson, the colored undertakers who removed the bodies, and visited the prison camp where he said he interviewed a number of prisoners, and examined the position of the bodies on the ground. Sat-7-26-47

FEARED SNAKES

He said the prisoners refused to work while out on the morning shift because the guards ordered them into a swamp which they knew was infested with deadly mocassin snakes. They asked for boots, but were refused, so they went back into the wooden cage on a truck which transports them to and from work—and sat down.

"If the theory that they had planned a mass escape is true, why did they go into the cage and ask to be returned to the stockade?" Commissioner Levine asked the writer. "Why didn't they try to run then?"

He said that at the camp he found one body on the roof of a shed, and insisted that this prisoner certainly was not trying to escape, except to escape death from flying bullets. Another inmate was found on the ground outside the 10-foot high barbed wire fence which surrounds the camp.

"He couldn't possibly have reached the top with all those officers blazing at him with shot guns," he told The Courier.

"Maybe his body was thrown over to make it look like an attempted escape."

The county commissioner also pointed out that one building is so close to the ground that two inmates who in terror sought refuge beneath it, were so tightly wedged that they had to be pulled out by brute force by the heels.

Another building is propped up on brick pillars about a foot high.

"It would be the last place any smart prisoner would go to make a prison break," the commissioner declared. "Two others remained alive by running into their own bull pen.

"Another thing that no one has pointed out about this alleged prison break is that all the inmates know that the entire prison is surrounded by deep swamps and that anyone who leaped into them from the fence would quickly sink up to his knees in the mire, and would have to be lassoed out of there with a rope.

"The only logical exit from the camp is through the front gate and down the dirt road to the county road a half-mile away.

"There is no doubt in my mind that when Warden Worthy fired his pistol and his guards opened fire the boys fled for their lives to any place of refuge they could find. There was absolutely no need to shoot them down like dogs.

"Regardless of the findings of the grand jury, I still contend that this was deliberate murder," he declared.

"The chief of county police and two policemen were there but didn't see any reason to shoot the prisoners," Mr. Levine told the Board of Corrections. "They had tear gas guns they could have used. I saw the Negroes where they fell. The only thing they were trying to escape was death. Only one tried to get over the fence.

GEORGIA SETS INQUIRY IN ROAD CAMP KILLINGS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, Aug. 12—The State Board of Concetions accused a Georgia Grand Jury today of conducting "a one-sided whitewash investigation" of the July 12 slayings of eight Negro convicts at a State highway prison camp near Brunswick.

New York Times
N. Y. N. Y.

The board ordered a new, thorough inquiry into the killings.

At the same time, the board abolished the camp and directed that the remaining seventy prisoners there be transferred to other county camps or to the Tattnall State Prison.

Wed. 8-13-47

The board acted after hearing Sam Levine, Brunswick merchant and Glynn County commissioner, charge that there was no justification for the slayings. He said he visited the camp on the day of the killings but that the Glynn Grand Jury refused to hear him, "heard only one side of the story and whitewashed the whole affair."

The grand jury's verdict was that guards justifiably shot the Negroes during a mass escape attempt.

Justice Department Asks Indictments In Georgia Slayings

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

(14c) N [illegible]

Sat-8-16-47

(Pittsburgh Courier Press Service)

SAVANNAH, Ga.—In a surprise move, the U. S. Justice Department asked a Federal Grand Jury, Monday of this week, to indict Warden H. G. Worthy and five Georgia prison camp guards, who recently slaughtered eight Negro prisoners in the Brunswick prison massacre, The Pittsburgh Courier learned from a very reliable source.

Instead of impaneling a special grand jury, the U. S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, J. Saxton Daniels, attempted to catch the prison warden and his aides off guard by making a surprise presentment to the regular grand jury sitting in the Southern District Federal Court on routine cases.

The men who shot down, in cold blood, thirteen Negro convicts in the Anguilla Prison Camp near Brunswick, were charged with depriving citizens of federally secured rights under Section 51, Title 18 of the U. S. civil rights codes. Eight of the thirteen shot were killed.

The Justice Department is acting on the basis that State officials conspired to deprive these Negro inmates of their civil rights.

NO FBI EXAM Sat-8-16-47

A special prosecutor from the Justice Department in Washington assisted the local U. S. attorney in making the presentment to the grand jury which sits in the court over which Judge Frank Scarlett presides.

No FBI examination preceded the presentment to the grand jury. However, the Justice Department expected that the Georgia Federal grand jury would investigate and ascertain the facts in the massacre.

CLARK ACTS

Meanwhile, in Washington last week, Attorney General Tom C. Clark expressed interest in the Brunswick slaughter and told a Courier reporter that every effort would be made to bring the prison guards to justice.

Mr. Clark said that lynchings and physical violence could be halted immediately if the U. S. Supreme Court would rule that life and liberty were Federally secured rights. This would mean that a previous Supreme Court ruling, which has hampered U. S. prosecution in lynching and violence cases, would have to be over-ruled.

Tension High as Georgia Jury Clears Prison Slayers

The Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 7-26-47

14c NY Office

By JAMES E. BOYACK

(Exclusive to The Pittsburgh Courier)

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—Outside, on beautiful Courthouse Square with its drooping live oaks and magnolias, the palm trees swayed gently to the hot summer breeze. From the tall aluminum mast, the Stars and Stripes hung lazily over the peaceful scene. On the sidewalks several hundred colored folks murmured in low voices.

Inside Glynn County Court House the scene was tense as politicians, businessmen, newspapermen and others saw the Superior Court Grand Jury silently and grimly file into the jury box.

Superior Court Judge Gordon Knox ruffled some papers on his desk, and as silence fell like a pall over the tense scene, he asked G. E Bosserdet, foreman for the jury's findings.

Bosserdet rose. His voice was as dry as the courtroom was steaming humid. He began to read the presentments in a low voice, which rose in cadence as he warmed to his subject.

For three days the Grand Jury had been hearing witnesses in the cold-blooded killing of eight Negro inmates of State Highway Prison Camp 18 in nearby Anquilla, and wounding five more, by Warden H. W. Worthy and his seven prison guards.

"JUSTIFIED" Sat. 7-26-47

"The jury finds that the warden and guards were justified in their actions by the circumstances which existed," Mr. Bosserdet intoned.

"The guards were charged with the responsibility of preventing the escape of the convicts. This is necessary for the protection of the peaceable people of this State. It would have been a very serious situation if fire had been withheld and a number of these desperate criminals had been allowed to escape," he said.

"The jury believes, after weighing the evidence, that the warden did not give an order to fire. The guards acted under standing instructions to prevent the escape of prisoners."

Evidence brought out in the inquest proves conclusively that the inmates of the prison were, at the time of the massacre, within its confines, and that at the time the massacre occured they were unarmed. The prison is surrounded by a ten-foot high barbed wire fence.

They faced the warden, standing there with his pistol drawn, with seven guards pointing shot-guns; County Chief of Police Russell D. Henderson, holding a 45 caliber machine gun across his arms, and his two county officers, J. W. Cole and William Roberts, armed with pistol.

SHOULD HAVE BEEN CHAINED Sat. 7-26-47

The foreman continued:

"The Grand Jury further finds that the abolition of stripes and chains makes it very difficult to handle the type of prisoners at this camp. We further believe that it would not have happened had the prisoners been chained and striped. It is the opinion of the Grand Jury that this law works to the detriment, rather than the good, of the prisoners.

"We recommend that the present wire fence and rotten posts around the camp be immediately replaced with a new fence of sufficient height to prevent any possibility of quick escape. It was found that any person with sound limbs could climb over the present fence and be on the outside within five seconds."

The Grand Jury did not explain how this could be accomplished with eleven armed officers behind one. with their guns cocked to fire.

"This Grand Jury finds, from the evidence of eye witnesses, the doctor, the undertakers, the report of the autopsies, in which the shots were recovered from the bodies, that the Glynn County officers did not fire," the presentment read.

This is a crucial point in the whole case. The writer questioned Chief Henderson at some length Asked why he and his two officers men didn't even pull their pistols.

COOLNESS PRAISED

His cool restraint and that of his officers were the subject of widespread praise among county officials. From another source, the writer learned that Chief Henderson is a professional police officer, since 1936, and attended the FBI School for Police Chiefs for three months last fall. Sat. 7-26-47

The jury also found that there was no evidence to support the charge by prisoners that the warden was under the influence of whiskey, or had had a drink.

It also requested that the Glynn County Commission refuse use of county property for use as a convict camp and to request the removal of the camp from Glynn County.

"Since one of the convicts was shot after he had jumped the fence around the enclosure, it is evident that some of the man had definite ideas about escaping from custody. For the protection of the public, the guards are provided with the necessary authority and arms to prevent such escape.

RAN TOWARDS GUARDS, CLAIM Sat. 7-26-47

"Testimony also showed that some of the convicts started to run towards the guard and warden. The guards are authorized to take such steps as are necessary to protect themselves and other guards," Mr. Bosserdet continued.

"It is evident that a tense, troubled atmosphere was in existence during the entire day. In order to maintain order it was necessary to take drastic action. When this action was taken, events were precipitated which resulted in the death of the convicts," he said.

So, today, Warden H. G. Worthy, who led the massacre of the eight Negro inmates of State Highway Prison Camp 18, and his seven guards, are back at the camp, free men, with the power of life and death over the inmates who testified against them.

Chicago Defender, Chicago, Ill.

FBI Facts Enter Retrial Of Georgia Prison Killers

Sat. 8-23-47

SAVANNAH, Ga.— The FBI will turn over findings of a special probe into the slaying of eight Negroes at Anguilla prison camp to a federal grand jury ordered to re-open the case against Warden H. G. Worthy and four guards who took part in the killings. The hearing is set for Sept. 29.

The announcement was made last week by U. S. Atty. J. Daniel Saxton, following disclosure that the state has abolished the prison camp system.

Immediately after the mass killings, Atty. Gen. Tom Clark ordered the FBI to see if the victim's civil rights had been violated. Worthy and the four guards were previously cleared by a 23 man grand jury that called the slayings "justified." Sat. 8-23-47

A new jury probe was ordered after Glynn County Commissioner Sam Levine testified before the State Board of Corrections that the slayings were "murder."

The board also voted to close all remaining prison camps in the state as a result of the slayings. It ruled that dangerous prisoners should not be put in places where there are opportunities for escape. It also said they are treated better in regular prisons. Sat. 8-23-47

Levine told the board he had been to the death camp two weeks before the killings and found the guards drunk. The camp was a disgrace to the state, he said.

"The chief of county police and two officers were there but they didn't see any reason to shoot the prisoners" Levine said. They had tear gas they could have used.

"I saw the Negroes where they fell—only one tried to get over the fence — The only thing they were trying to escape was death," he said.

Officer Kills Atlantan In Alleged Resistance Coup

14c NY Office (Ga.)

Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 9-3-47

Edward Jett, 28, of Rear Techwood Drive, who reportedly escaped from police custody while being treated at Grady Hospital Sunday morning, was shot to death by City Officer R. J. Bradley Monday afternoon, according to police reports.

63

Jett, previously arrested on a disorderly conduct charge, was spotted on Spring Street, around 5:55 p. m. Monday by Officers Bradley and R. W. Gilstrap, the report stated. At that time the officers claimed that he was peering into the establishment of Lee Tire Co., at 312 Spring St. The officers said that Jett broke and ran when they approached him. They followed him down Simpson St., into an alley across to Baker St., where Jett is said to have run into a vacant lot.

Officer Bradley said he jumped out of the patrol car and caught Jett who allegedly attacked him. Jett broke and ran again, the officers continued, and they reportedly chased him to the rear of Collins Printing Co., at 110 Baker St., N. W., where Officer Bradley said he caught him again. At this point Jett turned and attacked him again this time with a heavy board, Officer Bradley said. The officer claimed that Jett hit him with the board knocking him across a barbed wire fence. Officer Bradley said he attempted to free himself from the barbed wire fence when Jett swung at him again with the board, missing him as he ducked. Wed. 9-3-47

When Jett allegedly made another advance on him. Officer Bradley said that he fired one time, striking Jett in the chest. Jett then turned, ran and fell into a ditch nearby, the officer asserted.

A Grady hospital ambulance was summoned and Jett was pronounced dead on the scene by Doctor D. J. Withington.

Pictures were made at the scene of the shooting and the body of the deceased was sent to Hanley's Funeral Home at the request of the wife.

Georgians Ask Governor To Probe Murders

14c

Chicago Defender Chicago, Ill

Sat. 7-26-47

Sweatbox, Chain Gang, Floggings Defy State Law

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — The Superior Court grand jury last week gave a clean bill of health to Warden H. G. Worthy for the massacre of eight Negro prisoners at a convict highway work camp near here on July 11. The 23-member jury returned a special report which stated that the evidence indicated that "the warden and guards were justified in their action under the circumstances." Fellow convicts said the prisoners were shot down "like dogs." Sat. 7-26-47

Worthy and his guards and the city policemen who were called in to help cow the prisoners, when they refused to work in a snake-infested swamp without rubber boots, testified that the shooting occurred when the 27 prisoners threatened to attack the guards with their bare hands. Sat

This was denied by the prisoners who testified that Worthy was "reeling drunk" when he and the guards herded them into the stockade and called on five of the number to step out to be shackled and led to the sweatbox. When they demurred, knowing the torture of such punishment, and that it had been outlawed by the state, Worthy flew into an insane rage and fired point-blank at prisoner Willie (Pee Wee) Bell, and ordered the armed guard to "Let 'em have it."

Deny Escape Try 7-26-47

The prisoners also denied the charge that the shootings resulted from an escape threat back at the stockade, indicating that if that had been their purpose they could easily have escaped through the swamp out on the highway before they allowed themselves peaceably to be brought back to the stockade.

Worthy has a local reputation as a drunkard and a mean and cruel man to white prisoners as well as Negroes. The camps under his control have retained leg shackles for prisoners, the dreaded "sweatbox," and a leaded "bull whip" for the flogging of prisoners, despite the fact that all three forms of punishment have been outlawed by Georgia law for nearly a decade.

Ask Governor To Act Sat. 7-26

Following the action of the grand jury exonerating Worthy and the guards an effort has been started to enlist the NAACP, Southern Conference, and other liberal Georgia Groups of both races to bring the violation of the state prison regulations to the attention of Governor Thompson. The purpose of the effort is to have the governor by executive action remove from office Worthy and discharge the guards for their defiance of the state law. 7-26-47

14c 1947

Negroes by Policemen (Georgia)

7 Convicts Killed; Camp Boss 'Drunk,' 'Lifer' Tells Jury

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story, first of a series to be written concerning Georgia, was sent in by one of a corps of ace Courier reporters, who flew down to Brunswick Saturday morning, immediately following the "mass murder" of seven prisoners at Anguilla. Sat. 7-19-47

These reporters, trained in digging out the facts, will give our readers the story "behind the story" . . . will tell of life on a Georgia prison gang . . . will try to interview the warden and the convicts . . . will check on the "crimes" which led to the conviction of the slain men.

IF IT HAPPENS . . . IN THE WORLD OF NEWS . . . THE COURIER IS THERE!

Pittsburgh Courier-Pittsburgh, Pa.

(By Staff Correspondent)

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — I listened here Saturday morning as Willie Pee Wee Bell, stalwart lifer, accused Warden H. G. Worthy of being half-drunk!

I twisted in my seat as he told a coroner's jury that Worthy's "mow 'em down" order had resulted in the death of seven convicts.

I watched the reaction of the warden as he jumped to his feet to deny Bell's accusation. I saw his face redden and then turn a motley grey. And I wondered at the thoughts which must have been racing through his mind.

"Mow 'em down!" Sat. 7-19-47

That's what Pee Wee told a jury that Worthy had yelled. This order led to the Friday afternoon blast which snuffed out the lives of the men, penned in a Glynn County camp stockade. Pittsburgh, Pa.

Bell's statement, which completely belied earlier reports given out by daily newspapers, substantiated the statement of Police Chief Russell Henderson of Brunswick, that there was no need for the wanton "mass murders" . . . that the men were not trying to escape. Pittsburgh Courier

Out in the Negro section of this city, the people are shaking their heads over the story that the men were rebellious to the point of staging a "sit-down" strike . . . that they threatened the guards and the warden . . . and that they attempted to escape while the guards held them at bay with loaded guns.

Unafraid, Bell told the coroner's jury how prison guards fired on the twenty-seven escaping prisoners. Five of these colored convicts were killed instantly and two others died later in a hospital. Six others were wounded.

BELL DENIES TRYING TO DISARM WARDEN

Bell told the jury that the warden refused to let the prisoners enter the barracks after they were returned from a road project. Warden Worthy and other prison officials said the men had refused to work. Sat. 7-12-47

Bell, who is doing life for murder, denied that the shooting started because he made an attempt to disarm the warden. The lifer said he was in line with the group of prisoners and did not step out of the line when ordered to do so by Warden Worthy "because I knew he wanted to kill me." Pittsburgh Courier

Turn to Page 4 for Courier Artist Samuel Milai's Conception of Georgia Prison Camp Slayings.

Bell was shot in the leg.

Charles Veal, a prisoner from Atlanta, also testified that the warden "was drinking." He said he heard the warden say to Bell, "Come out, Pee Wee, I want to kill you." Sat. 7-19-47

Howard Adams, another Atlanta convict, said the warden then started shooting with his pistol and yelled to the guards, "Let 'em have it." Pittsburgh, Pa.

"DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL GUARDS TO FIRE"

Angered by the testimony given by the prisoners, both Warden Worthy and Russell B. Henderson, county chief of police, denied that Worthy had been drinking. Worthy said he did not order the guards to shoot, and added:

"I did not say 'let 'em have it.' When they run they (the guards) knew to let 'em have it. Those are my orders."

The mass slayings last week gave Georgia another bloody name. The slayings brought to seventeen the number of lynch-murders in the State in the last four years. Records show that Georgia has had over 500 lynchings since 1882.

GRAND JURY PROBE TO START THIS WEEK

An investigation of the prison murders last week will be investigated Wednesday of this week by a grand jury. The jurors were called to special session by Judge Gordon Knox of Glynn Superior Court. Pittsburgh Courier

In New York, Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, wired Attorney General Tom C. Clark, urging a complete investigation. Mr. White said preliminary reports from NAACP investigators indicated there was no justification for the slayings. Pittsburgh, Pa.

C. M. Moore is the regional executive of the NAACP in this area.

In his story to the coroner's jury, Warden Worthy said the fatal shootings were preceded by a four-hour strike of twenty-seven of forty colored convicts assigned to the road project.

Sat. 7-19-47

He said the protesting prisoners were herded into trucks and returned to the central camp. During that time, he said county police were asked for reinforcements.

Chief Henderson said he and two other officers went to the camp, armed with tear gas and shotguns to "quell a disturbance."

CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW MEN GOT BARS

The police chief said he lined up the prisoners and addressed them, telling them that they should obey the warden. It was at this time, he insisted, that Bell made a break for the warden. When the warden fired, all of the prisoners made a break for the twelve-foot barbed-wire fence, he told the jury.

Only one of the prisoners reached the fence as shotguns roared and helpless convicts fell to the ground.

The warden declared that the convicts were armed with iron bars and ice picks, but could not explain how they came into possession of such weapons.

The coroner's jury abruptly recessed its probe Saturday after Judge Knox called for a grand jury investigation this Wednesday.

Coroner J. D. Baldwin of Brunswick was in charge of the probe. Two men were sent to the camp from the State Prison Department to conduct a probe.

The scene of the fatal shootings is an all-Negro prison and has some seventy inmates.

Atlanta Daily World.
Atlanta, Ga.

'A Whitewash Should Not Stand'

The Atlanta Daily World joins the Citizens of Georgia in their mass indignation regarding the findings of the Glynn County Grand Jury investigating the brutal massacre of eight Negro prisoners at the Brunswick, Ga. "Horror Camp." The World regrets the Grand Jury's whitewash of the warden and guards who violated every code of penal justice and decency in subjecting the prisoners under their custody and care to indignities of the human spirit that rank with any tale of misery and lack of human care ever told of Devil's Island or similar hell-holes of infamy, outlawed by God and man. Such outrages should not be allowed to stand, thereby plague all decent and right-thinking citizens of Georgia, who want fairness, justice and tolerance for all citizens, regardless of race, creed or color. [illegible] 7-22-47

We call on the citizens of Georgia and their Board of Corrections to abolish the Brunswick Prison Camp and discharge the warden and guards who have smeared the blood of eight men over the whole state's conscience. We call upon the citizens to remove the aroma of death by fire and fury from its penal codes. We ask the abolition of all "Hell Holes" in which men of all colors, creeds and religions are subjected to brutal tyranny, indignities, intolerance, and death, by men ill-trained for the work of human rehabilitation and rejuvenation.

The World decries the use of chains, sweat-boxes, and striped suits in prison camps thereby laying the groundwork for the restoration of Georgia's infamous chain gangs. The World asks for justice and decency to return to the code books of our penal institutions.

The World unmistakably believes that hand-picked witnesses and the threat of fear hanging over the heads of the prisoners thwarted the wheels of justice. That the 30 witnesses who testified were corralled by fear and did little to dispel the fog surrounding the death of those ill-fated eight men.

Photographs of the horror camp have given testimon more glaring and positive than any of that submitted to th Glynn County Grand Jury. For these photographs show i graphic and unquestioned clarity that the prisoners wer huddled around the barracks in silent death, instead of drap ed over the barbed wire fence in flight. Witnesses befor being intimidated by fear, told that prisoners were forced t drape the body of one slain man over the fence immediately after the horror so as to substantiate evidence of flight. That Warden Worthy was "drunk" and "raging" has yet to be disproved. That from his lips came "Let 'em Have It," has yet to be challenged. Sun. 7-27-47

We reject the explanation that the prisoners were "hardened, desperate criminals and the most unruly, undisciplined men in the state." We know that convicts are convicts and never have been lauded for gentleness of spirit and sweetness of manner. Firm, sincere and positive handling of these men, should have followed prison policy everywhere for handling criminals incarcerated for offenses of far more gravity than the charges booked against these men.

Legal action against the warden and guards is neede if Georgia is to rejoin the crusade of decency and justice.

Aroused At Last

It is good to know that Georgians have at last becom aroused and shocked over the vicious slaying of eight Negr convicts more than a month ago near Brunswick, Georgi Indeed, the whole Nation has become aroused and righ eously indignant that such a thing could happen and a gran jury would have no more to report than a routine uprisin which many independent investigators find was no upris ing at all.

Wed. 8-13-47

The courage and character of Commissioner Sam Le vine of Glynn County, who on Monday afternoon demande that the State remove the prison camp away from Bruns wick or 'I'll leave the state,' is a rare thing for which all be lievers in human decency and justice owe him an everlast ing debt of gratitude. There are plenty of white Georgians who think and feel as he felt concerning this unholy actio of prison guards. But they lacked the courage of their convictions. Hence for fully six weeks or more now, it remai to the forces outside of the state to crystalize sentiment against such men as those prison guards who possessed no greater sense of their mission than to shout ::let 'em have it'. There is too much of that vicious, irresponsible philosophy dominating the hearts of officers of the law in Georgia. And it is our prayer that a speedy ending will be brought to it.

Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Now that the State Prison Board has moved to banish the remaining highway camps and has ordered a sweeping investigation into the vicious mass murder at the camp, let all Georgians lift their voice to heaven and demand that there shall be no whitewashing of these slayings. Once an offender has been placed under the custody of the law, there is no point in adding further punishment, especially brutality and murder such as took place at Brunswick. Furthermore, the day is over, in Georgia like in other civilized states, for Negro-hating, chain-gang thinking, trigger-happy guards.

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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1201

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Q.BK210 NPR COLLECT-BRUNSWICK GA 17

MICHAEL STRAIGHT-NEW REPUBLIC MAGAZINE
40 EAST 49TH ST NEW YORK NY-

New Republic
New York, N.Y.

FRIDAY JULY ELEVENTH TWENTY-SEVEN CONVICTS WERE CARRIED OUT ON THE HIGHWAY TO WORK. THEY WERE ORDERED TO GO IN THE DITCHES FULL OF WATER. THE CONVICTS TOLD THE GUARDS THEY WERE AFRAID OF SNAKES AND DID NOT WANT TO GO IN THE WATER. THE GUARDS CALLED THE WARDEN AND THE WARDEN WAS VERY UGLY AND USED VULGAR WORDS. THE CONVICTS GOT IN THE TRUCK AND REFUSED TO WORK. THEY WERE CARRIED BACK THAT AFTERNOON TO THE MAIN PRISON CAMP. THE WARDEN CALLED THE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF AND ASKED HIM TO BRING HELP. WHEN THE CHIEF ARRIVED HE ASKED THE PRISONERS TO OBEY THE WARDEN. AT THAT TIME NONE OF THE PRISONERS WERE ARMED OR HAD ANY WEAPONS WHATSOEVER. THE WARDEN CALLED ONE BY NAME OF WILLIE BELL AND TOLD HIM TO COME FORWARD THAT HE WAS GOING TO KILL HIM FOR STARTING THIS ROW. WILLIE BELL REFUSED TO COME OUT TO BE SHOT. THE WARDEN CALLED HIM AGAIN -"WILLIE BELL"-AND THEN THE WARDEN SHOT HIM IN THE LEG ONCE AND MISSED HIM TWICE. HE THEN ORDERED ALL OF HIS GUARDS TO "MOW THEM DOWN." THE PRISONERS TRIED TO GET COVER SOME RUNNING IN THE CELL HOUSE SOME RUNNING UNDERNEATH THE HOUSE AND IN EVERY DIRECTION AND THEY WERE SHOT DOWN AS FAST AS THEY WOULD RUN. THE WARDEN STATED THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE. THEY WERE ONLY TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM DEATH. IF THEY WANTED TO PLAN TO ESCAPE THEY WOULD ESCAPE WHILE THEY WERE ON THE HIGHWAY AND NOT WHILE IN THE 12'FOOT WIRE ENCLOSURE OF THE PRISON. FIVE WERE KILLED OUTRIGHT AND EIGHT WERE SENT TO THE HOSPITAL THREE OF THEM HAVE DIED AND FOUR OTHERS REMOVED BACK TO THE PRISON. ALL PRISONERS TESTIFIED THAT THE WARDEN WAS DRUNK. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GLYNN COUNTY ORDERED AN AUTOPSY ON ALL BODIES OF DEAD PRISONERS TO DETERMINE WHAT BULLETS CAUSED THEIR DEATH. THE BULLETS THAT WERE REMOVED FROM THE DEAD BODIES WERE DOUBLE O BUCKSHOT WHICH EVERY GUARD CARRIED IN THEIR GUN. THE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF HENDERSON DID NOT FIRE A SHOT NOR ANY OF HIS POLICEMEN. HE STATED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY AND UNCALLED FOR TO SHOOT. THE GRAND JURY IS NOW IN SESSION NO VERDICT YET. AS A COUNTY OFFICIAL OF GLYNN COUNTY I WILL STATE THIS IS AN OUTRAGEOUS MURDER AND THE GUARDS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS KILLING SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH MURDER. UP TO THIS DATE NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST THEM AND THEY ARE AT LIBERTY. I THINK THEY SHOULD BE PUT IN JAIL OR UNDER BOND UNTIL A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. THE PRISONERS WHO ARE THE MAIN WITNESSES WERE THREATENED WITH DEATH IF THEY OPENED THEIR MOUTH IN REGARDS THIS KILLING. THE LIVES OF 70 OTHER PRISONERS WHO ARE AT THIS PRISON FARM ARE IN DANGER WITH GUARDS LIKE THEY HAVE THERE LOOSE WITH HIGH POWERED GUNS READY TO KILL WITHOUT ANY REASON-

SAM LEVINE GLYNN COUNTY COMM.

Mon. 7-28-47.

Time Chicago, Ill.

"I'll Come Out Dead"

One hot afternoon last week, the prison trucks pulled up at State Highway Camp 18, a dreary collection of wooden buildings in the piney woods and palmetto low-lands of Georgia's coastal plain. They were bringing back the road gang from its grass-cutting job along Jesup Highway. The Negro convicts were hustled out and herded in front of one of the barracks. There was a confusion of orders and shouting. Then, as quick as a shimmer of summer lightning, something happened.

Warden W. G. Worthy strode toward the knot of convicts, gun in hand. There was a single report from his .38-cal. revolver, then the roar of four shotguns in the hands of prison guards. Convicts scattered frantically, flopping to the ground, diving under the buildings for cover. One made the barbed-wire-topped fence before a cursing guard, kicking loose a jam in his weapon, blasted him down with a load of buckshot. Mon-7-21-47

In less than a minute it was all over. Someone shouted: "Stop shooting." When the thin smoke of high velocity shells had cleared, five dead Negro convicts lay sprawled on the sun-drenched ground. Of the 22 others, eight were wounded, three of them fatally. Said a frightened survivor: "They mowed them down like wheat."

A coroner's jury tried to piece together the story. Warden Worthy, paunchy and thin-lipped, looking more like a schoolteacher than a road-gang boss, said that the trouble had started out on the highway when the convicts refused to work. He said that he had intended only to punish the ringleaders. He was defiant: "I got a right to knock 'em in the head and drag 'em to the hot box if I can't put 'em in anyways else." But he insisted that he had not fired until a Negro lunged for him, grabbing at his revolver.

The convicts, brought in for questioning, told another story. Willie ("Peewee") Bell said that he had been the chief target of Warden Worthy's rage. When the warden told him to step out of the group, Peewee said, he knew what was coming. He remembered his own words to Worthy: "Boss, I ain't gonna come out because if I come out I'll come out dead." Again & again Worthy yelled at him. Then it happened. Peewee dropped with a .38-cal. slug in his leg, which saved his life as the guards' pump guns poured buckshot into the other convicts.

At week's end, the coroner's jury delayed its verdict, pending the convening of a special Glynn County grand jury to look into the whole tragic affair.

Georgia Official Calls Prison Killing Deliberate

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

By Harry Raymond

Thurs. 7-17-47

BRUNSWICK, Ga., July 16.—The shooting to death of eight Negro prisoners in Anguilla state prison stockade by white guards last week was denounced as "deliberate and outright murder" by a high county official today as a 24-man grand jury opened an investigation of the massacre.

The official is Sam A. Levine, Glynn County Commissioner and leading Brunswick merchant.

"I believe the guards should have been incarcerated in a public jail in the county where this crime took place until the courts have a chance to investigate the tragic incident," Commissioner Levine told the Daily Worker. "Up to this date not a single guard accused of firing on the prisoners has been placed even under technical arrest."

After Judge Gordon Knox made a short charge to the grand jury, Levine appeared in the marble lined courthouse demanding that he be called to testify as a spokesman for the people of Glynn County.

H. R. Duvall, Atlanta State Prison Camp Supervisor, was the first witness to enter the closed-door jury hearing.

Warden H. G. Worthy who fired the first shot, prison guards, county police, prison officials and 14 Negro inmates were on hand to be heard.

Commissioner Levine, however, was not called to testify. He stood in front of the jury room door protesting "this outrage."

FRAMED ESCAPE

Levine charged prison guards threw the body of one of the dead Negroes on top of the 12-foot high barbed wire fence of the stockade to make it appear he was shot while attempting to escape.

"This was deliberate and outright murder," said Levine. "Not one of those prisoners attempted to escape. One was killed when he crawled under the bunk house when he attempted to get out of the way of a fusillade of bullets. Three more died directly in front of the bunk house." Thurs. 7-17-47

Levine further accused state officers of using "gestapo methods." He declared threats of death were made to compell prisoners to testify favorably about the actions of the warden and the guards.

The prisoners were brought to the court house in a boarded-in prison pen truck, similar to vehicles used for transporting pigs and sheep. Construction of the pen made it impossible for the prisoners to stand up. They were forced to crouch in in a sitting position.

Outside the court house where guards with carbine loafed under huge water oaks guarding the prisoners, 200 local Negroes milled quietly around waiting word from the jury room. But no word came. The investigation was scheduled to continue tomorrow.

Inside the court house, keeping careful eye on the procedures were C. J. Cogdell, local attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and A. Nathan, counsel for a Brunswick civil liberties group.

The local branch of the NAACP held a special rally where a report was made on the prison massacre. Negro and white citizens outraged over the killing have already contributed a substantial fund to the NAACP war chest to fight for justice in the case. Thurs. 7-17-47

A sizable cross-section of opinion among the white population of Glynn has been aroused against the slaying of the Negro prisoners.

Don't Stop It There

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Notwithstanding the report of the Glynn County grand jury findnigs in the unholy slayings of eight Negro prison convicts by a white guard, it would be shocking to every decent instinct within the human breast if the investigations were allowed to end there. Shocking reports are still going the rounds. An independent investigator has returned from the scene and promises to give out information which no grand jury could afford to wince at. The national office of the NAACP is clamoring to probe fully into every phase of the massacre and then to seek legal counsel to bring the facts before the proper authorities. Tues. 7-22-47

There is simply too much information which has not come to light and we believe the proper legal counsel will not wince at the evidence and insist upon the prosecution of those guilty for mowing down men as these convicts were mowed down near Brunswick.

We know that the investigations should not be stopped on the findings of the grand jury. Negro leaders, both in Brunswick and throughout the state, should insist on a report more factual than anything that has yet come out of the disgraceful affair. We predict that many sinister facts will yet be uncovered by the probe now going on by independent investigators. Tues. 7-22-47

GEORGIA PRISON

Life

Sirs:

Mon. 8-11-47

My hat is off to you for your relentless fight against the race hate which exists in the South today. Scenes such as you have depicted in your Picture of the Week of the Georgia prison (LIFE, July 21) would not come to us except through impartial national publications.

My local newspaper, the Houston *Chronicle*, has one of the largest circulations in Texas. Yet, like most Southern newspapers, it plays up the Negro as a rapist and a murderer, displaying his crimes and alleged crimes in bold front-page type, while crimes perpetrated against the colored people or worth-while achievements by this group are either omitted altogether or told about in small back-sheet type.

Incidents such as this Georgia massacre are made possible by the deliberate nurturing and fanning into flame of any and all sparks of race hate on the part of our dailies. It is no wonder that so many of the white population look upon the Negro as a menace to society rather than a citizen with human rights. Chicago, Ill.

I am a Negro and the mother of two small boys who do not know as yet that they are anything more—or less—than normal American children. I shudder to think of their future in this, our southland, where hostility toward my people seems to be on the increase rather than on the decline.

MRS. B. W. RANSOM

Houston, Texas

Sirs: Life

Regarding your story on the prison camp, here are a few facts you omitted:

1) These prisoners had given enough previous trouble that day to warrant the calling of police from nearby Brunswick. Chicago, Ill.

2) Previous escape records of the five who were killed instantly are as follows: Jonah Smith, five; Henry Manson, three; Willie Wright, one; James Smith, two. The fifth record, George Patterson's, was not listed.

3) Major C. A. Williams, head of the state department of prisons, held an immediate investigation in which the warden and guards were exonerated. Mon. 8-11-47

FIELDING D. WHIPPLE

Athens, Ga.

● Another fact: the jury which exonerated the warden and guards went on record that the chain gang is the only proper way to handle Negro prisoners.—ED.

Thompson Leaves Killings With Corrections Board

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

ABOARD TRAIN EN ROUTE TO SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, July 12—Act. Gov. Thompson read of the slaying of five Georgia convicts at Brunswick in big, bold headlines which covered the front page of the tabloid "Rocky Mountain Times."

Then he issued this statement: "I first heard of this trouble when I bought a paper at Cheyenne Wyo. We have a Constitutional Board of Corrections charged with the responsibility of all matters pertaining to prisoners. This board is composed of outstanding Georgians who, in my opinion, are thoroughly capable of handling this matter without any interference or assistance from me as Governor." Sun. 7-13-47

'Massacre Warden' Had a Killer Record

By Harry Raymond

BRUNSWICK, Ga., July 17.—Warden W. G. Worthy, who fired the first shot in last week's prison camp massacre in which eight Negro inmates died, attempted to kill a prisoner two years ago, a former guard at the grim Anguilla State Highway Stockade told me today. The ex-guard, who asked that his name be withheld, said the prisoner, a Negro, was saved from violent death by guards who restrained the warden after he had fired one shot and missed. Daily Worker

The incident, according to the former guard, took place in the stockade mess hall in 1945. A Negro prisoner made an oral complaint at mealtime, the ex-guard said, and the warden entered the hall and attacked the prisoner with a stick. New York, N.Y.

Several blows were struck, declared the former prison employe, and the Negro wrested the stick from the warden. At this point a guard grabbed a quart-sized salt bottle from the table and struck the prisoner over the head, stunning him but not knocking him down. Warden Worthy then whipped out his pistol and fired point blank at the Negro, the ex-guard stated, and the Negro collapsed. Fri. 7-18-47

TRIES AGAIN

Believing the prisoner dead, he was dragged from the mess hall and his clothes were torn off in search for what was believed to be the fatal wound.

But the "screws," as the guards are called by prisoners, found no wound. The prisoner regained consciousness after being doused with a pitcher of water.

Then, declared the ex-guard, the warden aimed his pistol at the Negro and said he would kill him. But some guards quickly grabbed Worthy's arms and foiled the attempt on the prisoner's life.

"Warden Worthy was a man who always waited until things got out of hand and then acted," the ex-guard said.

JURORS ARE GUESTS

Ironically, the 24 members of the grand jury investigating last Friday's slaying of the Negro prisoners were luncheon - guests of Warden Worthy at the stockade today. Fri. 7-18-47

The jury heard testimony from the warden yesterday. He told a coroner's hearing earlier the prisoners were shot while attempting to escape.

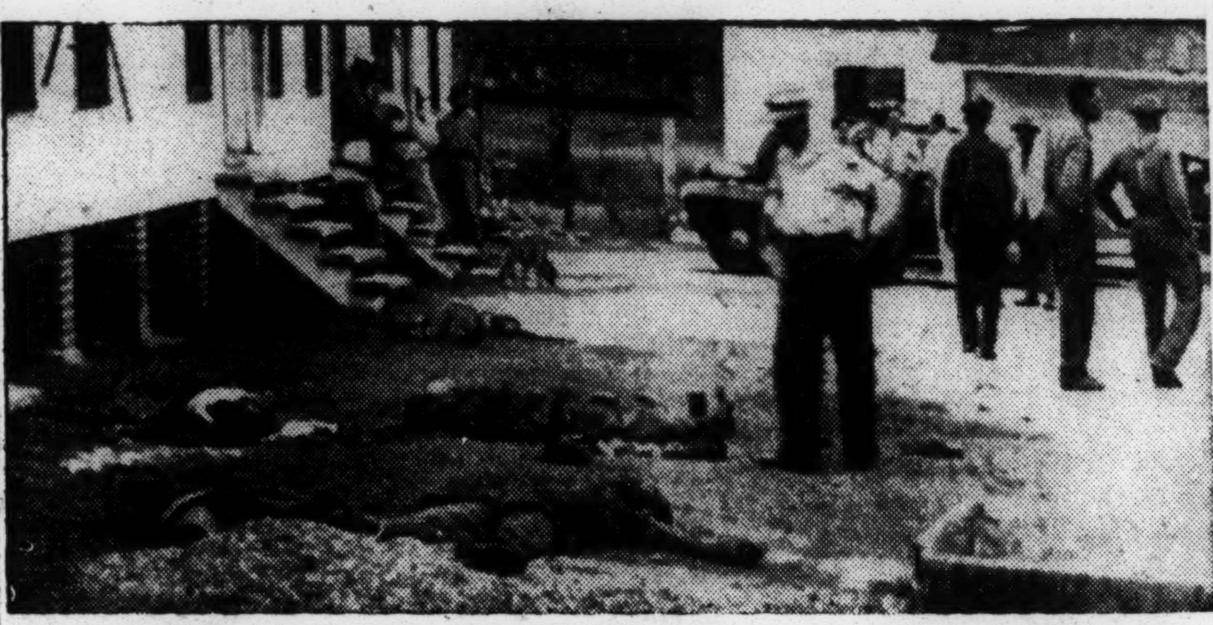
But prisoners told the coroner the warden and guards opened fire in the stockade enclosure after the prisoners had complained of being told to work in snake-infested swamp land without protection of rubber boots.

Solicitor Glenn Thomas, local prosecutor, ordered the grand jurors into buses when they arrived at the courthouse this morning. They were driven off to the stockade. What they saw and who they questioned in the prison camp was not made public.

8th Negro Dies In Georgia Killing; Whitewash Seen

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Wed. 7-16-47



Bodies of four of the eight slain Negro prisoners lie in the Brunswick, Ga., prison camp inclosure.

By HARRY RAYMOND

BRUNSWICK, Ga., July 15.—The death toll in last Friday's prison camp massacre of Negro inmates has risen from seven to eight, and there are indications today that the stage is being set for a quick whitewash of the bloody affair by at least two of three investigation bodies.

Willie Frank Chambers of Chatham County, who was serving 20 years in the grim Aquilla Stockade, was the last to die. He succumbed to gunshot wounds in the City Hospital late yesterday.

As preparations were completed for the opening at 10 a.m. tomorrow of a Grand Jury investigation, state prison officials were hurriedly preparing an alibi for the cold-blooded slaughter, claiming the prisoners were fired upon while attempting a mass escape.

Glynn County police chief Russell B. Henderson, however, continued to contradict the state officers, stating he and his men witnessed the shooting and saw no evidence that the Negroes were attempting a break. Wed. 7-16-47

A coroner's inquest has already taken testimony from prisoners who charged Warden W. G. Worthy, raging drunk, ordered guards to shoot down the unarmed prison inmates when they balked at working in snake infested swamp waters. Chief Henderson said he did not believe the warden was drunk.

The State Board of Corrections in Atlanta announced it had investigated the fatal shooting but would withhold a formal report until the Grand Jury completes its probe.

But an investigator for the Board, who refused to allow use of his name, has come to the defense of Warden Worthy. He took said he did not believe the warden had been drinking when he opened fire with his pistol. The investigator referred to the incident as "a mass convict escape attempt." Wed. 7-16-47

J. B. Hatchett, assistant director of the State Department of Correction, supported the investigator.

C. J. Cogdell, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, conferred today with Solicitor General Glenn Thomas, who will conduct the Grand Jury investigation. Cogdell is reported to have presented the Solicitor with a list of witnesses prepared by the local NAACP branch. The NAACP has demanded that these witnesses be subpenaed. The Grand Jury hearing is expected to last two days.

A third investigation of the fatal shooting was launched by the Glynn County Commission. A preliminary report of the commission, after hearing testimony from Chief Henderson and J. D. Baldwin, said: Wed. 7-16-47

"We ask particularly that the bullets be removed from the prisoners who were killed and submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for ballistic analysis so that it may be determined whether or not any employe of Glynn County participated in the shooting."

The county commission issued the following statement to the press:

"Please be advised that Glynn County authorities had no control over this camp, but it was entirely a state institution. Glynn County in 1937 became one of the first in Georgia to abolish its chain gang and since that time has used free labor exclusively upon our public works.

"We have called the law enforcement officers for a full and fair investigation. In justice to the people of this county we ask that these facts be set forth in any account you send out." Wed. 7-16-47

Convict-Slaying Probe 'Left-Up' to Grand Jury

Atlanta Constitution - Atlanta, Ga.

The State Board of Corrections would consider the courts "fina authority" in the investigation of the slaying of seven Negro convicts at a State Highway Camp, near Brunswick, Director C. A. Williams said here Monday. Tues.

Williams made this statement following a meeting of the Board at Coweta County Public Works Camp near Newnan. No action was taken on the Brunswick probe because of the absence of two Board members. Tues 7-15-47

Final action would be taken at a call meeting this weekend or early next week, Williams said. A Grand Jury investigation will begin in Brunswick Wednesday.

At the same time, the Board will decide whether to stand by its decision to close the Jones County Public Works Camp, where a substitute warden admitted repeated beatings of a Negro convict.

In Newnan, a State investigator told the Board he did not believe Warden W. G. Worthy was drunk or had "been drinking" when he opened fire with a pistol in last Friday's mass slaying during an escape attempt.

J. B. Hatchett, Assistant Director of the State Department of Corrections, said his investigation at the scene indicated Worthy's actions throughout the tense, troubled day were those of "a sober man trying to deal with a difficult situation."

A Coroner's Jury last Saturday held an inquest into the slayings in Brunswick, but withheld a decision pending Grand Jury action.

14c 1947 Negroes by Policemen (Georgia)

GEORGIA BARBARISM

Barbaric Anglo-Saxon violence has occurred again in Georgia. Eight Negroes are in graves and a swaggering, arrogant warden, W. G. Worthy, is the latest hero of the Klan South.

Twenty-seven work-camp convicts refused to work in a snake-infested swamp without rubber boots for protection. They were unarmed, defenseless, yet a brutalized warden gave the order that snuffed out their lives.

The late Eugene Talmadge would applaud. Chicago Defender

The late Adolph Hitler would applaud. Chicago, Ill.

What will President Harry S. Truman do? Sat. 7-26-47

Negroes cannot and will not tolerate a whitewash of this Czarist massacre. The charge that these men were attempting to escape is identical with the charge which the Nazi always made whenever they found it desirable to knock off a few innocent victims. There is not even any originality in the warden's nonsense that these men tried to escape. Sat. 7-26-47

There is no escape from a Georgia prison camp. You know it, we know it, the warden knows it, the whole world knows it.

This was cold-blooded slaughter, done on a hot day by a "superior" man.

Right now the President and his military advisers have managed to figure out that the problems of the whole world are our problems. We are reconstructing Europe. No question of "local rights" or "states rights" seems to deter our State Department from rushing headlong into warfare in Greece, into sponsoring a Greek fascist coup. Chicago Defender.

Can this same government, with this policy, claim with honesty, that what happened in Georgia is solely a matter for Georgians to settle?

Is it going to be necessary for us to appeal to other countries to step in here and intervene in our failure to reconstruct the South while trying so hard to reconstruct Europe? If we can intervene in Europe, maybe other nations may feel it necessary to intervene here.

That is strong talk, we know. But it is forced upon us. It may now be necessary to carry our cause to a higher court than the United States Supreme Court and to the Constitutional laws which it blandly ignores. Chicago

Mr. Truman, two weeks ago you declared we were at a "turning point" on the Negro issue. You were quite right. The supremacist class senses this turning point and is resorting to large-scale violence. New York City has just seen a series of outbreaks of anti-Negro violence. And we now learn that the UNO has decided to lease the Jim Crow apartment house project of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

There is indeed a turning point in the Jim Crow situation nationally and even reaching out beyond our borders in its effects. Chicago Ill

Mr. President, will you keep quiet in the face of this pogrom and rest upon your recent words or will you pressure the Attorney General's office and use all other agencies at your command to bring Warden Worthy to justice and prevent the spread of any further mob violence in America?

7-26-47

We believe that (1) Warden Worthy and his system of prison rule must be brought to trial; (2) the families of the murdered men must be indemnified; (3) the President should affirm his recent progressive position by a concrete act in this case.

No Escape! 14c

Commonweal New York, N.Y. Fri. 8-8-47

SINCE the publication of the horror pictures of the slain at the Brunswick, (Ga.) prison camp in the nation's newspapers and picture magazines two things have happened. The facts have been ascertained: the Negro prisoners had asked for a conference with the warden when ordered to work barefoot in rattlesnake-infested swamps; this request was not granted and they refused to do the work; on their return to the prison itself five of the "ringleaders" were ordered to step forward by the drunken warden, who told one of the Negroes he was going to kill him; the five naturally would not obey, and the warden ordered, "let them have it"; eight prisoners were killed and six wounded, for the area was enclosed by a wire stockade twelve feet high, from which there was no egress. The second development: the warden was brought to trial by a grand jury in Brunswick and acquitted of any wrongdoing on the ground that the prisoners were trying to escape. Local jurors will continue to adjudge things in this manner as long as there is no federal statute affording requisite protection to those American citizens whose municipalities and states fail to protect the basic human liberties.

Say Guards Had To Fire On Prisoners

Atlanta Daily World Ga.

Alleged Drunk State Of Warden Worthy Denied

Thu., 10-9-47

The slaying of eight Negro prisoners at the Glenn County State Highway camp on July 11 was fully justified and necessary to end a mutiny and prevent a mass escape a special committee of the Georgia Legislature reported to Governor M. E. Thompson and the General Assembly, Wednesday.

The guards and their warden nevertheless, continue under indictment by a Federal grand jury on charges of violating the civil rights of the eight prisoners, A corner's jury and Glenn county grand jury previously had given the slayers a clean bill.

Making the legislative committee which reported to the Governor and the General Assembly were Representatives Ol W. Hill, of Merriweather county; John Mavity, of Walker county, and C. Z. Harden, of Turner county. They drew up their official report at the State Capitol Wednesday with the assistance of Assistant Attorney General John Bell. Personal investigations and interviews were conducted by the committee.

The committee denied that the 40 Negro prisoners who had quit work on a road drainage job had been ordered to work in water waist deep and infested with water moccasins. 10-9-47

CHARGE BELL ATTACK

Further the investigators charged that Willie Bell attcaked Warden W. G. Worthy before the latter fired the first shot allegedly at Bell's feet.

The committee further charged that the prisoners who had refused to go back to their barracks were armed with three pieces of steel about two feet long and a club; that immediately after the attack, allegedly was made upon Warden Worthy by Bell that the remaining prisoners ran amuck in an effort to take over the camp and make the camp and make their escapes; that after the prisoners began their attempt to take over the camp and to escape the guards justifiably used firearms to prevent assault upon themselves and escape of the prisoners.

The investigators found no foundation in the allegations of the prisoners that the warden and guards had been drinking and insisted they were completely sober at the time of the outbreak; claimed that the wardes and guards used every peaceable means at their disposal to settle the outbreak and tried to avoid the use of firearms.

The corner's jury conclusions was found by the investigators to be "correctly, fairly and impartially rendered." The probers charged that Samuel Levine Glynn county commissioner, who charged Warden Worthy and the guards with voluntary manslaughter, based his accusation on hearsay evidence, and explained that Chief R. B. Henderson referred to himself personally when he made the statement that he did not think it necessary for him to shoot, because the guards had things well in hand. It was claimed that Chief Henderson said subsequently that if he had been the warden, he would have acted "just as he did."

The special legislative group also claimed that photographs published in newspapers and magazines, especially Life magazine, were "distorted,, misguiding and unfair," because they were taken after the prisoner's bodies had been moved from positions near the fence of the enclusure. 10-9-47

"Had the photograph been taken of the bodies in the positions where they fell, the attempted escape would have been indicated clearly,' the probers concluded.

Prison Camp Officials Face U.S. Indictment

Montgomery Advertiser

Federal Court Charge Says Negroes Deprived Of Civil Rights

SAVANNAH, GA., Oct. 1.—(AP)—The warden and four white guards at a Georgia highway prison camp were charged today in a Federal court indictment under the civil rights statutes, with depriving eight slain Negro convicts of their life without due process of law. 10-2-47

The convicts were shot to death last July 11 at the Glynn County camp near Brunswick, Ga.

A State Superior Court grand jury previously upheld the contention of the warden, H. G. Worthy, that the shootings were justified when the prisoners attempted a mass escape. The State has since closed the camp. Thurs.

Named with Worthy in the Federal indictment today were Guards Guy McNabb, Remer Bazemore, H. L. Holmes and W. C. Lawler. All were at liberty when the indictment was returned.

The five were accused of depriving the Negroes of their constitutional right "to be secure in their person while in the custody of the State of Georgia and to be immune from illegal attack at the hands of officers and employes of the State of Georgia" while in custody, and "not to be subjected to punishment without due process of law" or "deprived of life without due process of law."

The indictment said the warden and guards fired shotguns "wantonly, unnecessarily and without just cause" at the eight Negroes who were killed and two others who were wounded "for the purpost of imposing illegal summary punishment."

Willie Bell, a wounded convict, testified at a coroner's inquest following the shooting that the warden was "half drunk" and "wanted to kill me." This the warden denied saying that he shot Bell in the leg when the latter charged from a group of convicts in the prison yard and tried to disarm him. The warden said he assembled the convicts to "reason with them" when they balked at road work.

It was the shooting of Bell that precipitated the mass escape attempt, the warden said.

Another convict, Charles Veal, testified that the warden was drinking and called to Bell "come out Peewee. I want to kill you."

Conviction under the civil rights statutes under which the warden and guards are accused carries a penalty of a $1,000 fine or one year in prison or both.

Hunt Guards Indicted In Slaying of Negroes

14c NY P

World News, New York 10-9-47

Special to the Daily Worker

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Oct. 7.—Two of four highway prison camp guards indicted by a federal grand jury on charges growing out of the massacre of eight Negro prisoners July 11 were reported missing last night. U.S. District Attorney Saxton Daniels announced bench warrants had been issued for their arrest.

Named in the indictment, charging violation of the civil rights statutes by depriving the slain Negro prisoners of their lives without due process of law

Trial of the five is scheduled to begin in the Brunswick courthouse Oct. 29. But Vance Mitchell, attorney for the group, is expected to ask adjournment. And there is also the possibility that the U. S. attorney will seek delay if the two missing guards are not apprehended by scheduled opening date of the trial. 10-2-47

(Sam A. Levine, Glynn County, Ga., Commissioner of Roads and Revenue, who led the fight for prosecution of the prison officers, told the Daily Worker by telephone that major sentiment in Brunswick, among both white and Negro citizens, favors conviction and imprisonment of the accused officers. Levine's testimony before the State Corrections Board in Atlanta resulted in closing of the Anguilla Prison Camp where the massacre occurred.) 10-10-47

A Superior Court Grand Jury and coroners inquest had whitewashed the whole affair and declared the shootings were justified. But mounting public protest caused the U. S. District Attorney to seek indictment of the killers under the 14th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution.

Daily Worker N.Y. C
14c
VOTE LESS
for
EAT LESS
CONGRESS

Shoppers Sign: **Thousands of signatures for price control and rationing were collected yesterday outside Macy's by members of the New York League of Women Shoppers. All doors to the largest department store in the world at 34 St. and Sixth Ave. were manned by canvassers, who found shoppers responsive to their demands.**

Daily Worker Photo by Peter

INDICTED OCT. 1

The indictment was handed down in Savannah Oct. 1 by a federal grand jury of 21 white men and three Negroes. Conviction under the civil rights statute carries a maximum prison term of ten years.

Warden Worthy and the guards said they shot the Negroes to halt a prison break. But testimony of prisoners revealed the men were lined up and shot down in cold blood as punishment for refusing to work in snake-infested swamp water.

Photographs of the death scene showed some of the dead men were attempting to crawl under a prison stockade bunkhouse to escape the bullets. Willie Bell, a wounded prisoner, told a coroner's jury Warden Worthy was "half drunk" when he started firing with his pistol.

Prisoners Civil Rights Violated, Jury Claims

Daily Worker

Atlanta Ga 14c

NY Police

Man Testifies That Warden Was Drunk And Wanted To Kill

Thur 10-2-47

SAVANNAH, Ga.— (SNS)— Charging them with violating the civil rights statutes, a federal grand jury Wednesday indicted Warden H. G. Worthy and four of his guards in the near Brunswick prison camp massacre of eight Negro convicts last July 6.

Guards indicted included Guy McNabb, Remer Bazemore, H. L. Holmes and W. C. Lawler, who allegedly participated in the sanguinary orgy that snuffed out the lives of the eight prisoners , injured two more, and placed the others in a state of trepidation. Thur 10-2-47

In its indictment the grand jury charged that Worthy and the guards "deprived these people of the right to be secure in their persons while in custory of the state of Georgia" in violation of the fouteenth amendment to the federal constitution.

It charged further that Worthy and his guards fired shotguns "wantonly, unnecessarily and without just cause" at the eight slain convicts and the two others who were injured "for the purpose of imposing illegal summary punishment."

FOLLOWS CAMP'S CLOSING

The indictment follows a closing of the horrow camp ordered on Aug- State Board of Corrections on Aug. ust 11. During this meeting the Corrections Board other than closing all prison camps operated by the State Highway Board, ordered a full scale investigation into the Glynn county prison camp slayings.

Willie Bell, one of the injured convicts testified at a corner's inquest of the dead men, that Warden Worthy was "half drunk" and wanted to kill him. 14c NY Police

Another prisoner stated that the drunken Warden shouted orders to his guards to "let'em have it" as they fired numerous volleys of shotgun and pistol shots into the terrorized prisoners. Atlanta Ga

WORTHY DENIES CHARGE

Worthy denied both accusations, and he and his guards were subsequently exonerated by a Glynn County grand jury on July 18.

Undaunted by this acquittal, leaders and organizations over the state and nation resolved to see justice done. It was Isadore Pitamtn, president of the United Fur and Leather Workers- CIO, bearing names of 10,000 Massachusetts and New Hampshire workers; Sam Levine, County Commissioner of Glynn County; Mrs. Louise Blalock and many others who called for a full scale investigation of the massacre, which was followed by the closing and promised investigation of the camp by the Corrections Board. Daily Worker

In an effort to justify the mass slaughter, Warden Worthy said the prisoners had balked at road work. The guards opened fire on the convicts when Willie Bell advanced on him out of a group of hearded prisoners, he said. Thur. 10-2-47

The eight prisoners killed were Edward Neal, James Smith, Jonas Smith George Patterson, Don W. Stephens, Willie Amos Wright Henry Manson and Willie Frank Chambers. 14c

Willie H. Bell and Willie G. Brooks were injured.

Under the accusation charged by the indictment, Warden Worthy and his guards, if found guilty would receive a $1,000 fine or one year in prison or both.

Civil Rights Law Cited By U. S. Jury

14c NY Police

Atlanta Constitution

SAVANNAH, Oct. 1—(AP)—The warden and four guards at a Georgia Highway prison camp were charged in a Federal Court indictment under the civil rights statutes Wednesday with depriving eight slain Negro convicts of their life without due process of law. Atlanta, Ga.

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The five were accused of depriving the Negroes of their constitutional right "to be secure in their person while in the custody of the State of Georgia and to be immune from illegal attack at the hands of officers and employees of the State of Georgia" while in custody, and "not to be subjected to punishment without due process of law."

Te indictment said the Warden and guards fired shotguns "wantonly, unnecessarily and without just cause" at the eight Negroes who were killed and two others who were wounded "for the purpose of imposing illegal summary punishment."

Listed in the indictment as killed were Edward Neal, James Smith, Jonas Smith, George Patterson, Don W. Stephens, Willie Amos Wright, Henry Manson and Willie Frank Chambers. The two others, both wounded, were listed as Willie H. Bell and Willie G. Brooks.

It was Bell who testified at a coroner's inquest following the shooting that the Warden was "half drunk" and "wanted to kill me."

10-2-47 Thurs.

Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat 11-8-47

(14c)

"MESSED UP"—"I am so messed up now, life isn't worth living any more. I have three buckshots in my back and one in my shoulder and arm," West Jackson, one of the convicts shot in the Brunswick massacre, told AFRO Correspondent Douglass Hall last week. He is now in the University Hospital at Augusta, Ga.

Prisoner Tells Jury A Story Of Threats Before Jail Break

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

BRUNSWICK, GA., Oct. 27.—(AP)—A story of death threats by Georgia prison camp guards before eight Negro convicts were shot to death in a July 11 outbreak at the Glynn County Convict Camp, was given to a federal jury here today.

14c

Three Negroes told of threats made against prisoners engaged in road work after the convicts declined to work in ditches they said were filled with water and snakes.

N by Police (Ga.)

The three were the first witnesses presented by the government in the trial of Former Warden H. G. Worthy, and four former guards. Tue. 10-28-47

The defendants are charged with violating rights of the prisoners guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Eight Negroes were slain and three others wounded, the government charged, without due process of law and without just cause.

Conviction under the Civil Liberties Statute is punishable with a year's term in prison, a $1,000 fine, or both.

On the day of the shooting, prisoners who refused to work were returned to the camp. About 27 were brought back out of a detail of 40 engaged in clearing roadside ditches.

Vance Mitchell, defense attorney, said the men in the detail were rapists, murderers, and burglars, and all but one had escaped on previous occasions. He said Warden Worthy singled out Willie Bell as the ringleader and asked Bell to step out of the group of 27 at the camp. Bell declined and Worthy advanced toward the group. Bell lunged at the Warden and the latter fired toward the ground, Mitchell said. Tue. 10-28-47

At the first shot, other prisoners started toward Worthy and the guards and the latter opened fire, Mitchell told the jury.

"The guards fired upon the convicts in defense of their own lives," the defense attorney said.

Before the guards fired, he said, the prisoners had threatened to take charge of the camp.

Elija Kiser, Negro prisoner, first witness called by the government, told the jury one of the guards told them that he had never killed a Negro, adding "Why don't some of you run? I want to see how it feels to kill a nigger."

The warden came to the work detail and ordered those who wanted to work to one side of the road. Kiser said 13 stepped aside for resumption of work. The others were put on a truck. One of the prisoners made a remark that they should complain to the State Department of Corrections or the governor, Kiser said.

The witness declared Worthy told the prisoners "When I get through with you, you won't see anybody."

Armour Stephens, Negro, who served a term for inciting to riot and carrying a gun, told the jury one of the guards threatened the prisoners with death when they refused to continue working in the ditch. He said the prisoners climbed out after killing a snake and seeing others in the water.

The defense called 28 witnesses and the government 18, indicating the trial may continue for several days.

An all-white jury was selected to try the case. One Negro on the panel to prospective jurors was stricken on the motion of defense counsel.

GEORGIA HIDES HER SHAME:

(14c)

Afro-American

Won't Let Newsman Visit 'Death Camp'

Baltimore Md.

11-8-47

By DOUGLASS HALL

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—Forbidden by U.S. District Judge Frank Scarlett to visit the "death camp" when the jurors who are trying the killers of eight prisoners visited there several days ago, I decided to make a visit of my own.

I knew that I had to be careful, because my camera has caused no little concern in this court. (I was put out of court Thursday.) testimony about the "sweat box"

But after hearing several days' and various buildings, I thought that it would be good to see them and even better to photograph them for AFRO readers.

Judge Forbids Photographs

Presiding Judge Scarlett seems to have a fear for photographers that amounts to almost a passion. He told us that he did not want any pictures taken in the courtroom or the courthouse.

"This case is not being tried in the newspapers," he declared. But I planned to see the "death camp" where men were shot down like so many rabbits.

I wanted to see their locations, the ground where they fell, the fence that encircled them, the bird cage that brought them in from work, bullet holes in the walls and the distance of the barracks from the ground.

After one sits and listens to testimony a few days, there comes a feeling to see, touch and know.

Then, too, I figured that if seeing the camp was important enough for the court to send the jurors out, then seeing it was absolutely necessary for me in reporting to my readers.

I called upon two local citizens to go with me, the Rev. J. F. Mann, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, and Mrs. J. R. Dobeacle, who has lived here for years.

We arrived at the camp just about dusk, drove down the narrow road that led to the main gate. There was nobody in sight. We stopped at the gate and I started in, when all of a sudden a State patrol car came down the road in a fog of dust. A patrolman brushed by me and pushed the gate closed. I had it half opened and was just about to begin my tour.

"Git outta here," he snarled, "ain't nobody coming in here to take no more pictures!" I left; but I did not give up.

During the trial there has been much testifying as to the amount of water that the men were required to work in.

How deep was the water that the men protested going into without boots? Prison guards testified that the water was not even ankle deep, "just a litlte rain water in a small hole, about the size of a wash pan."

All the prisoners testified that it was a large swamp, filled with weeds, snakes and dirty water.

That is just what we found at the site where the men stopped working: water, weeds, and snakes. Citizens in that community stated that water was waist-deep when the men were working out there.

Wife of Slain Farmer in Danger

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

ATLANTA — Dan Duke, former State Attorney General, employed by the Georgia Citizens Defense Committee to defend Mrs. Caroline Gilbert, wife of Henry Gilbert, prosperous farmer lynched last month in Hamilton jail, charged last week that a conspiracy apparently exists to further intimidate her. Sat. 6-28-47

Gilbert was shot to death in Hamilton jail in Harris County while held on a charge of aiding Gus Davidson, suspected slayer of Olin Sands, white farmer and mill operator, to flee from the scene of the alleged crime in Troup county.

Mrs. Gilbert was arrested at her home near Union Springs, Ga., and later bound over to Troup County Superior Court on the same charge that had been placed against her husband.

14c/N by Police (Ga.)

She was taken into custody as she prepared to sell her model farm and home, feeling that she and her four daughters could not live peacefully in the community.

Mr. Duke denounced the arrest of Mrs. Gilbert and branded it as a "conspiracy to cover up the first mistake of killing Gilbert, her husband." Sat. 6-28-47

The fiery lawyer who received much credit for speeding revocation of the Ku Klux Klan's charter warned officials that events in the little Justice of the Peace court room in LaGrange would not end the story of Gilbert's lynching.

Sheriff Slays Negro, Is Wounded In Battle Over Felony Warrant

Bham., Ala. News
Mon. 7-14-47

GEORGETOWN, Ga., July 14 —(AP)—Sheriff H. F. Herrington, 64, said today he had killed a 65-year-old Negro Saturday night in a gun battle with a group of Negroes. He said they sought to prevent the arrest of one of their race on a felony warrant. The sheriff was wounded slightly. 14c/N by Police

Herrington said he killed Ball Smith. The latter cursed him, brandished a revolver and declared he would not permit the arrest of his son, T. D. Smith, 17, Herrington said.

Several Negroes in the rural farmhouse opened fire. The sheriffs' gun was shot from his hand and a bullet struck him a glancing blow on the side of the head. He said several men then beat him with their fists before fleeing. One rib was broken.

* * *

"I HAD A WARRANT for T. D. Smith charging him with assault to murder in the shooting of another Negro," Herrington said, "and I went to the Smith home five miles from here to serve it. Earl Martin, a friend, rode out there with me.

"We walked in, not expecting any trouble. Old man Smith cursed me and said: "'No white man is going to put his hands on my boy. You got your gun and I got mine.'" Mon. 7-14-47

The sheriff said he and Ball Smith started shooting and the Negro fell dead.

Herrington said: "Martin only had a flashlight as he tried to defend himself. He managed to break loose and get to the car outside. He went for help. The Negroes almost beat me into unconsciousness. When my head cleared, I staggered out of the house."

HERRINGTON GOT a ride into Georgetown on a truck. He was treated by a doctor. He said the Negroes fired three shots at the truck.

When a posse returned to the house, only the body of Ball Smith was found. The others had fled.

About 20 Negroes were in the house when the sheriff entered, he said. Most of them edged out before the shooting started.

14c N bj Police (Va.)

NEGRO CONVICT TELLS STORY—Negro Willie Bell (center) tells his version of the attempted break by 27 Negro prisoners from a Georgia highway work camp near Brunswick, Ga., Friday, at an inquest held Saturday in an open shed within the camp enclosure. Bell, described by Warden W. G. Worthy as the ringleader of the break, told a coroner's jury (at right) that the warden was "half drunk" at the time of the break, when seven of the prisoners were killed by guards. A court reporter takes testimony. Inquest was called by 80-year-old Coroner J. D. Baldwin (holding nose at right). (Associated Press wirephoto.) Bham. Ala. News Mon. 7-14-47

What Has Mrs. Gilbert Done?

It appears that the Gilberts' case, in which Henry Gilbert, well-to-do Troup County farmer, is said to have been mysteriously slain by an officer of the law in a Harris County jail, and in which his wife, Mrs. Mae Caroline Gilbert, was subsequently arrested and placed under a $1,000 bond, is going to turn out to be another "little Scottsboro case." For in all candor, whites and colored alike, who have followed developments, are baffled and bewildered as to any reasonable explanation for any part of the queer atmosphere surrounding it. Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Take, for example, the highly incredible report that Henry Gilbert, an upstanding church leader, went out of his way to aid and abet Gus Davidson, another Negro charged with the slaying of Olin Sands, a white sawmill owner, by sheilding him in his home and thus permitting him to flee the scene of the murder. Remember too, that Davidson's father and other members of his family are right in calling distance of the Gilberts, reports say, and yet a murderer would choose to be cloaked in another's home to that of his own family. People with a modicum of good sense simply do not wish to believe that sort of slap-happy logic because it does not add up to good sense. Sat. 6-28-47 (14c)

Everywhere people are now asking, "well, what have they got against Mrs. Gilbert? Haven't they killed her husband, without so much as giving him a semblance of a trial? They want to know is it that the law enforcement officials are holding her in order to "cover up the action" for killing her husband, as Dan Duke so aptly inferred in his handling of the trial hearings? N bj Police (Va.)

It is not clear in the minds of the Negro nor white people why a Troup County Negro had to be committed to a Harris County jail. It is not clear why a Georgian-born Negro, living in the fear of the lynch-rope his entire life could muster up enough courage, in the very custody of the law, to threaten an enforcement official in jail. And it is giving right thinking people no little concern how Davidson's entire family has been subjected to the severest type of suspicion and many of them kept in jail since Sands was killed.

The people want to know if the government is going to hark back that same old charge that it is "powerless to act" in such a clear and obvious violation of a person's civil rights. The people want to know if Mrs. Gilbert must be molested and harassed in a community where most of the Negroes live in constant fear because of an apparent determination to get somebody for the death of a white man. The people want to know what can a Negro expect in such a community from the officers, charged with the equal administration of the law. Sat. 6-28-47

14c 1947 Negroes by Policemen (Georgia)

Jury Inspects Prison Scene Where Eight Were Slain

14c N by P

By PERRY MULLEN

BRUNSWICK, Oct. 29—(AP)—A Federal court jury Wednesday visited the prison camp where eight Negro prisoners were slain during an alleged prison break. Earlier the ury heard the camp physician testify that he had never seen Wardn H. G. Wothy mistreat prisoners.

The warden and four guards at the camp which has been closed since the slayings last July are on trial for violating the civil rights of the slain Negroes.

The physician, Dr. S. B. McDaniel, identified X-rays of bullet wounds in the bodies of the dead. All of the missiles, he said, were buckshot. Some prisoners were shot in the back, others in front or from the side.

Dr. McDaniel, who was called as a Government witness, was examined closely by District Attorney J. Saxton Daniel about a "sweat box" used to punish prisoners at the camp.

The physician said the structure was about 8 by 12 feet with a few holes in the door for ventilation. It had a cement floor. The doctor said prisoners could remain in the box for three weeks without endangering their health, but that none had been kept there longer than nine days.

Warden Worthy, the physician said, often released prisoners from the box before he (the physician) would have done so himself.

Contradicting testimony of a prisoner, the physician said the Warden was not drunk on the day of the shootings.

Earlier in the day, Hewlitt Binford, a Negro prisoner, said that guards at the Glynn County Highway Camp did not fire shotgun blasts at prisoners lying on the ground. This was in contradiction to testimony Tuesday of James Maxwell, another prisoner.

Binford, who is serving Fulton County sentences for manslaughter and assault to attempt murder, repeated the story of other convict witnesses that the prisoners had been assembled in the prison yard when they refused to work in a snake-filled ditch. He declared that the Warden threatened to kill Willie Bell, alleged leader of the convicts, and shot at Bell when he refused to step out. Binford said four guards then started firing. He was wounded in the leg.

During a recess in the trial Wednesday, Marion E. Jackson, of Atlanta Daily World, and Douglas Hall, of the Baltimore Afro-American, protested to Judge Frank Scarlett against being excluded from the courtroom floor. They said they had been forced to cover the trial from the Negro gallery and could scarcely hear the proceedings. Judge Scarlett promised to make some adjustment for the Negro reporters by Thursday.

Beau Jack's Brother Is Slain by Cop

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

14c N by Police

AUGUSTA, Ga.—The fighting instinct of the family of Sidney Walker, Georgia's famous Beau Jack of the squared circle, ran true even down here in Dixie, as Augusta police found out when they called upon Sidney's brother, John Henry, to surrender after they had surrounded him with a pistol-ringed cordon. "No sir, white folks," said John Henry, and started firing.

The incident occurred last Saturday, when Walker was accused of shooting at a woman in a house here. A white patrolman shouted the surrender ultimatum to John Henry. After a brief exchange of shots, with Walker being hit, the Beau's brother ran a short distance, collapsed and was taken to a hospital where he died. Courier

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Prison-Slayings' Hearings Continue

(14c) N by Police (Ga.)

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—(SNS)—Federal prosecuting attorneys Monday asked the Federal court jury trying former Warden H. G. Worthy and four of his former guards for deprivation of prisoners' civil rights if Worthy had created a state of fear that led the convicts to believe they were to be assauled prior to the killing of the eight convicts last July 11. Tue 11-4-47

Summing up the Government's case against the accused quintet, Prosecutor Greene B. Everitt, told the jury that counsels for defense and prosecution concurred that guards have the right to shoot escaping prisoners but admonished that under the Supreme Court decision of the State, a warden has no right to creae a condition of fear of assault.

The guards testified that they fired to protect themselves, one saying that one of the convicts had an iron bar in his hand.

Having continued for a week, the trial is expected to end soon as closing arguments are expected today. Tue. 11-4-47

Prosecutor Everitt recalled the testimony of convict Willie Bell who said he refused to step out from among the huddled prisoners for fear that the warden would beat him with a pick handle that lay on the ground nearby.

Worthy charged that Bell was the ringleader of the 27 prisoners who had refused to work in a water-filled ditch said to have been infested with snakes.

The prosecutor declared that Bell feared that the warden was going to beat him with the pick handle, he had just cause to remain among the huddled prisoners. Then, too, not one convict attempted to escape, he added.

After the Warden had fired three time and not until then did the prisoners run, there was no necessity for the guards to open fire, the prosecutor asserted.

One of the guards, Guy McNabb testified that he opened fire when the men lunged at him. He denied that he had told the prisoners to run because "I've never killed a n——— and want to see how it feels."

Another guard testified that he had at one time been at another camp where the prisoners became disorderly and shot some guards. He expressed the opinion that he feared a similar occurence at the Glynn camp. Judge F. M. Scarlet ruled out this testimony.

Leader 'Lunged' at Warden, Officer Tells Glynn Jury

(Ga.) N by Police (14c)

Constitution: Atlanta, Ga.

By PERRY MULLEN

BRUNSWICK, Oct. 30—(AP)—Testimony in defense of former prison camp guards who killed eight Negro convicts near here last July was given a Federal Court jury Thursday by W. T. Roberts, a Glynn County policeman. Fri. 10-31-47

Roberts told the Jury that Willie Bell, alleged ringleader of what camp authorities described as a mass revolt, lunged at Warden H. G. Worthy before the latter shot him in the leg.

The police officer was the first defense witness called in the trial of the ex-Warden and four former guards who are charged with violating civil rights of the slain prisoners. The Government completed its case Wednesday.

Roberts testified that Worthy had lined up the men in the prison camp yard after 27 of them were returned from a road detail for refusal to work.

The Warden, holding a pick handle, faced the group and ordered four or five to step forward, Roberts said. Several guards standing near by were armed with shotguns. Fri 10-31-47

Under cross-examination by District Attorney J. Saxton Daniel, Roberts said Bell was 10 or 12 feet from the Warden and "lunged" at him, advancing two or three steps. The witness earlier denied that Worthy had told Bell he was going to kill him, as some of the Negroes testified.

Roberts identified for the Jury three iron bolts and a power line insulator with a large screw on the end which were found in the prison yard after the July 11 shooting. Also offered in evidence was a three-foot stick which Roberts said Willie Bell had when brought back to the camp from the road detail.

Roberts said the prison guards shot only the convicts who broke from the line and ran after the Warden fired at Bell. "They did not shoot any men on the ground," he added. Fri 10-31-47

Warden Worthy and the four ofrmer guards indicted for violation of the prisoners' civil rights did not testify Thursday. But the defense presented two other guards who told of Negro prisoners raging at guards with vile language, and then called B. G. Hall, Warden of the Folkston Camp.

Hall told the ury he took 37 prisoners to the Glynn Camp the day before the shooting. He said he overheard Wes Jackson tell other prisoners in the group being transferred that "when we got down there we will take that damn camp."

After arriving at the Glynn Camp, Hall said, Henry Manson, one of the eight Negroes killed, called to him and said: "We are not going to stay here. We will leave by one way or another."

Hall said he replied: "You'd better stay because if you leave it might be 'the other way'."

Chief Henderson testified that in his opinion it was necessary for the guards to fire at the running prisoners to prevent an escape.

The defense later began presenting a long record of escapes by the 27 men allegedly involved in the disorder, the records showed one of the men had escaped six times, several others had two or more escapes in their files.

H. R. Duval, a supervisor of convict forces for the State Highway Department, testified that on one of his visits to the camp he noticed that Willie Bell had an ice pick concealed in his cap. He said he glimpsed the point of the pick tsicking out of the cap. Duval said he called Worthy's attention to the pick and Bell was placed in a solitary confinement cell. Fri 10-31-47

Duval said he didn't think the cell, previously referred to as a "sweat box," was good for a man's health but that it was the only form of punishment prescribed by Georgia prison regulations.

'Prisoners' Fear of Assault Is U. S. Plea in Glynn Trial of Guards

ATLANTA, Ga.

By PERRY MULLEN

BRUNSWICK, Nov. 3—(AP)—Government counsel Monday asked a Federal Court jury to determine whether a Georgia convict camp warden created a condition leading prisoners to believe they were to be assaulted, before eight Negro convicts were slain July 11.

Greene B. Everitt, summing up the prosecution's case against former Warden H. G. Worthy and four former guards, told the jury that Government attorneys and defnse counsel agreed that guards have the right to shoot prisoners attempting to escape.

But he cited a Georgia Supreme Court decision which he said held that a warden "has no right to create a condition that might lead a prisoner to believe an assault was going to be made on him."

Earlier, the defense closed its testimony by putting the four guards on the stand. One guard said he fired after "I felt my life was in danger." Two others said prisoners lunged at them. A fourth guard said one of the convicts was armed with an iron bar and another prisoner had a stick before the shooting started.

Warden Worthy and the four guards are charged with violating civil rights of the Negroes by shooting them without cause. The trial, begun last Monday, approached an end with concluding Government arguments and a defense summary scheduled Tuesday. Tues.

Prosecutor Everitt called attention to testimony that Willie Bell, alleged ringleader of a group of 27 prisoners who refused to work, had declined to step out of a huddle of prisoners.

"He believed that if he came out he would be beaten with a pick handle the Warden had lying there on the ground," Everitt contended. CONSTITION

"Testimony by both Government and defense witnesses showed the shooting started after Bell refused to step forward.

"If conditions there caused Bell to be afraid because of that pick handle, I believe that under the law he didn't have to come out. Not one prisoner had attempted to escape.

"The warden fired three times and not till then did the prisoners run. Was there any real necessity for the guards to shoot and kill those men?"

Guy McNabb, 21-year-old former guard, testified earlier that he fired at four Negroes as they headed for him after Warden Worthy's opening blast. 11-4-47

He denied testimony by surviving convicts that he asked some of them to run because, "I've never killed a nigger and I want to see how it feels."

Asked if he received pleasure from killing the prisoners, the guard replied: "No, sir."

Remer Bazemore, another guard, said the convicts had an iron bar and a stick and he fired six shotgun blasts but could not say whether he killed any of them.

Guard W. C. Lawler said he fired three times and, "The first man I shot was coming toward me." He said another Negro was lunging for Warden Worthy and he fired at the convict. He said when he first arrived at the scene the convicts were in a huddle, cursing guards and police.

"I felt my life was in danger," he said. "I fired three times."

Guard H. L. Holmes said he had previously been in another camp where prisoners mutinied and shot several guards and he believed the convicts were about to attempt the same thing at the Glynn camp. This testimony was ruled out by Judge Frank M. Scarlett.

Georgia Road Camp Guards Tell Their Story Of Killings

Birmingham, Ala

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Oct. 30—(AP)—Former Georgia convict camp guards, accused of inflicting summary illegal punishment on Negro prisonrs by killing eight, came to Federal Court today to tell their side of the story. Thu. 10-30-47

The government completed its case yesterday against former Warden H. G. Worthy and four former Glynn County convict camp guards.

Two government witnesses contradicted testimony of others that the warden was drunk and that some of the prisoners were shot while lying on the ground.

Dr. S. P. McDaniel, prison camp physician, told the jury that Warden Worthy had not been drinking July 11, the day the shooting occurred. Thu. 10-30-47

Another government witness, Hewlitt Binford, a Negro convict from Fulton County, told the jury the warden and guards did not fire on men lying on the ground.

Dr. McDaniel testified the dead and wounded were hit by buckshot from shotguns and that no other type of gun wounds was found on the bodies. One Negro witness had declared that county police, called to aid guards, fired with a tommy-gun. McDaniel said all the shots entered straight through the men, either from the back, front or side.

Twenty or more witnesses have been summoned by the defense to back the guards' story that the prisoners rebelled against normal road work, refused to obey orders and brought about the shooting by their own conduct.

Five Convicts Killed, Others Injured In Outbreak at Glynn Prison Camp

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution Sat. 7-12-47

BRUNSWICK, July 11—Five Negro convicts were slain and an undetermined number injured near here when a group of 27 prisoners rushed their Guards Friday afternoon after returning from a work detail, Warden H. G. Worthy reported.

Worthy, who is Warden at the Glynn County Prison Camp 12 miles fro mhere, said the guards told him upon their return that the convicts had been "unruly" while working on the Jesup Highway. Anticipating further trouble, Worthy said, he immediately summoned aid from Glynn County Police Chief Russell B. Henderson.

When Henderson arrived with other officers, the Warden lined up the group for questioning and a further checkup. Suddenly several of the Negroes broke ranks and charged the guards and officers who opened fire with rifles and shotguns. Sat. 7-12-47

The Warden said one Negro was killed while trying to climb the wire fence surrounding the prison camp.

All 27 prisoners were recent arrivals at the camp, and their sentences ranged from small terms to life imprisonment, Worthy reported.

More than eight Negroes were known to be seriously injured, but those only slightly hurt were treated and put in confinement, the Warden reported.

The prison camp has no white prisoners, but more than 70 Negroes were confined there, Worthy said. Sat. 7-12-47

14c 1947

Negroes by Policemen (Georgia)

Policeman Praised For Killing Negro

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

At a coroner's inquest held Friday morning at the Fulton County Courthouse in connection with the death of R. C. Mance, of 546 Martin St., who was slain by Officer J. W. Cody Thursday, the officer was exonerated and reportedly commended by the Coroner for having done his duty as an officer. [illegible]

According to Mrs. Margaret Mance, widow of the deceased, four or five of her neighbors attended the inquest. During the hearing it was revealed, said Mrs. Mance, that one of her neighbors. James Duncan, of 107 Richmond St. S. E. had signed a sworn statement allegedly written by an officer, stating that the victim had his hand in his pocket at the time he was slain. (This statement conflicts with Officer Cody's original report that the victim had his fist clinched at the time he was shot.)

Atlanta, Ga.

The deceased was reputed to be a loyal church member of Mt. Carmel Baptist church here and had worked with a good record for several years for the Henry C. Beck Construction Co.

Daily World

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at Hartwell, Ga., the wife states. Jun 5-11-47

Unarmed Martin Street Man Is Slain By Police

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
Fri. 5-9-47

Killer Claims Victim Failed To Halt Advance

Thursday morning about 7 o'clock unarmed P. D. Mance, 38, of 546 Martin Street, S. E., was shot to death by Officer J. W. Cody a few yards of his home doorstep as his wife looked on.

Reporting on circumstances which led to the slaying, Officer Cody stated that he and his partner, R. V. Paschal, received a call to investigate a disturbance in that vicinity. When they arrived, states Officer Cody, the victim was pulling at the door of a pressing club adjacent to his house. As their car pulled up to the curb, Officer Cody said he alighted and the victim walked to the middle of the streets.

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Officer Cody stated further that as he stepped off the curb and walked toward the victim, the victim turned toward him with his fist clinched. The victim was told to halt his advance twice, said Officer Cody, and as he continued his advance Officer Cody pulled his gun and shot. The first shot failed to halt the victim, stated the officer. The officer said he shot again. The victim is said to have turned away from the officer and walked to the opposite corner where he fell. The officer also reported that the victim's wife said that he had tried to kill her.

Grady authorities reported that Mance was shot in the left arm and near the ninth rib. He was pronounced dead at 7:12 a. m.

With tearful eyes the wife of the deceased said that her husband was sick and had been treated only the night before, stating further that she did not tell the officer that her husband was trying to kill her.

FBI Investigates Prison Slayings

The Atlanta, Constitution
Atlanta, Ga. Fri. 8-15-47

SAVANNAH, Aug. 14—(AP)—U. S. District Attorney J. Saxton Daniel announced Trursday the Department of Justice is investigating the slaying of eight Negro convicts by guards at a Georgia prison camp near Brunswick on July 11.

The announcement that Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had been ordered to make the inquiry came from the District Attorney after he conferred with U. S. Judge Frank M. Scarlett.

Daniel said evidence obtained by the FBI would be presented before a Federal Grand Jury here Sept. 29. Fri- 8-15-47

Guards opened fire on 27 Negro prisoners after Warden H. G. Wortthey said they attempted to escape.

Subsequently, a Glynn County Grand Jury exonerated the warden and five guards, finding that they were "justified in their action under the circumstances."

The State Department of Corrections earlier this week announced the Brunswick camp was being abandoned and that the State was renewing its investigation of the slayings.

Hard-Hitting Dan Duke Digs In To Solve Gilbert's Murder

Sat. 6-21-47

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

(By J. RICHARDSON JONES)

LaGRANGE, Ga. — (SNS) —In Truop County's modern court house at LaGrange Friday Georgia's fearless crime-buster, Atty. Dan Duke, defended Mrs. Mae Henry (Caroline)) Gilbert against charges that she had shielded and harbored a criminal who was wanted for murder.

The charges grew out of the killing several weeks ago if Olin Sands (white), of Troup County, by one itinerant cotton-picker, Gus Davidson, following services at a Negro church, where Mrs. Gilbert and her late husband attended.

The deceased, Henry Gilbert, was killed while in custody of Harris County authorities, who had charged him with aiding and abetting the escape of the alleged murderer, Gus Davidson. Gilbert, a respected farmer and land-owner, deacon and treasurer of his church, traesurer of the Masonic lodge of his communiyt, and well thought of by most white and colored residents of Troup county, denied vehemently that he had offered shelter or assistance to Gus Davidson, but met violent death in the jail at Hamilton (Harris County), Ga., while allegedly "resisting." Sat. 6-21-47

EXEMPLARY LIFE

All persons who knew Henry Gilbert were shocked when news of his death became known because he had always lived an exemplary life. He was thrifty and progressive, owned (unemcumbered) 110 acres of land in Troup and Harris counties, on which he had erected—all within 16 months—a modern home, barn and out-houses. At Chipley, where the writer talked with the banker who financed Gilbert at the beginning of the planting season, that individual spoke in praiseworthy terms of the deceased.

Henry Gilbert is now dead; Gus Davidson, the alleged murdered, had escaped; Davidson's father, Lovie Davidson, along with his wife, two daughters, and another son were supposedly in custody of Harris County authorities. What next?

The answer to that question came last Sunday when Gilbert's widow, en route to visit [illegible] in Atlanta, was arrested in LaGrange on a warrant charging "harboring and shielding" a criminal. She was thrown into jail and held until Monday morning when bail was made for her and she proceeded to her destination.

Friday Mrs. Mae Henry (Caroline) Gilbert returned to LaGrange to face commitment hearing. Apparently it was all set for a regular cut-and-dried commitment, but the unexpected presence of Atty. Dan Duke as the defendant's counsel obviously caused consternation, and there was much whispering and animated activity among those standing in the hallway outside of the office of the Justice of the Peace where the hearing was held. Sat. 6-21-47

STAR WITNESS

The prosecution's star witness was called to the stand; he was none other than Love Davidson, father of the escaped alleged murderer. A pitiful sight indeed; exhibiting prison pallor and dressed in dingy overalls and shirt, without sox, shuffling forward in run-down shoes and fumbling a faded, worhout hat.

Davidson took the stand, and addressing the court humbly as "Boss Man," he faced Mrs. Gilbert and charged her with harboring his son, following the killing of Olin Sands. He stated that he had asked HIS boss-man (Luke Sturdivant) for permission to get off and "look for Gus to make him give up" after Mr. Sturdivant had advised him that was the wise thing to do, in order to avoid trouble in the community.

Davidson said he would "ruther dey git Gus and 'lectricute him" than have him caught and lynched, so he went "scouting 'round" looking for Gus. He testified that on a Monday (he didn't know what Monday) he visited the farm of the Gilberts and talked with Gus, Henry and his wife in the Gilberts' kitchen; that he asked Gus to give himself up to the law, but that his son refused.

Davidson could never remember days of the week when pinned down by Atty. Duke for specific answers, always replying: "I can't read nor write, Boss Man, and I don' know what day it 't'was."

Under cross-examination he stated that he went back to his boss-man on a Tuesday and told him that he had his son over at Gilbert's place. Sat. 6-21-47

CORROBORATES TESTIMONY

His "boss man", Luke Sturdivant, was called to the stand, and he corroborated Davidson's testimony, adding that when apprised of Gus' whereabouts, he immediately called the Troup County Sheriff and advised him of the escaped alleged murder's purported presence on Gilbert's farm. Despite this information, however, from a white land-owner, no effort was made to apprehend Gus Davidson on Gilbert's farm. Nevertheless, on the following Monday morning (six days later) before dawn Harris county officers aided by the Troup county sheriff, went to Henry Gilbert's place to arrest him (Gilbert) for aiding and abetting the escape of a man wanted for crime.

How did they know Gus had escaped from Gilbert's farm (if he really were there)? And why did they not proceed to Gilbert's farm with posse and bloodhounds the moment Gus' father had told his boss-man that the alleged murderer was hiding out there? These questions were evidently buzzing around in Atty. Duke's brain as he recalled the sheriff to the stand.

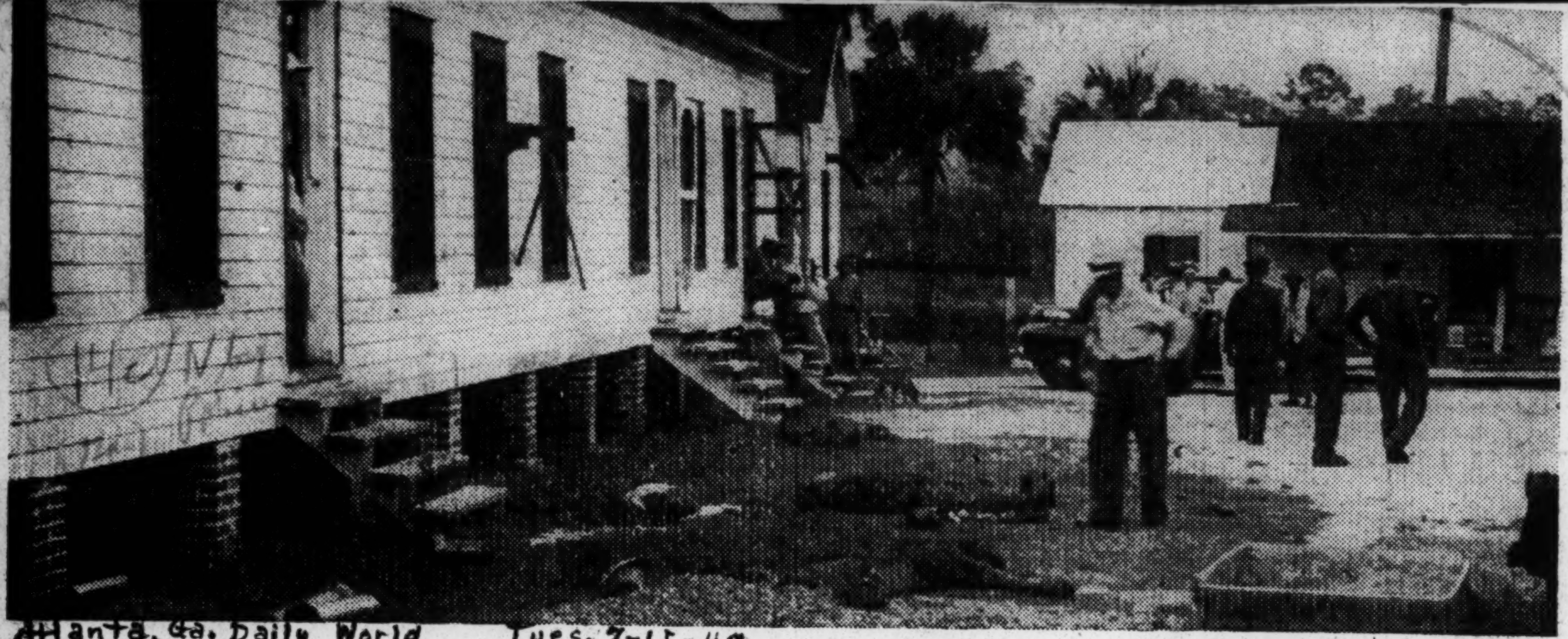
The Sheriff denied that he had been apprized of Gus' supposed hiding-out on Gilbert's farm (as related by Mr. Sturdivant), insisting that his investigation had uncovered no such evidence. This was in direct contrast to Sturdivant's testimony, and arosed consternation in the small, crowded court-room. Sat. 6-21-47

Lovie Davidson was recalled to the stand. Atty. Duke questioned him as to why he was being held in jail and how long he had ben there. Davidson thought that ("as near as I kin remember") he had been there about a month, and did not know why they were holding him and his family, saying: They said dey wuz gonna hold us 'til dey recluded somep'n." The statement brought titters from spectators, judge, and attorneys. Just what they wanted to "reclude" Davidson did not know.

In his argument before the court the fearless Mayor of Fairburn, Ga., declared in heated tones that what the Harris County authorities wanted to "reclude" was duress; that they were holding this man and his family as hostages, in order to make him testify against the widow of Henry Gilbert. "Why," Duke insisted, "did they wait until last Sunday morning to serve a warrant on Caroline Gilbert when Lovie Davidson allegedly had told his boss-man about her at the same time he told him about Henry Gilbert?"

Atty. Duke further pointed out that they had served a warrant which stated neither time nor place that such an alleged harboring and shielding were committed. He charged that under it all a conspiracy lay to cover up "their first mistake" (killing of Henry Gilbert). He scored "outside officers" for "sticking their noses into Troup county" and stirring up trouble. Harris county officers glared defiantly at the defense attorney, but he conitnued his verbal lashing, assuring them "this case won't end in this little court room."

The presecution argued that "Caroline Gilbert probably cooked the meals for the fugitive and made up the bed in which he slept" and pressed for her being bound over to Superior court. Such was the order of the Justice of the Peace, and Mrs. Mae Henry (Caroline) Gilbert, widow of the man whom Atty. Duke alleges was "murdered in cold blood," is under one thousand dollars bond to appear at the next term of Superior court in LaGrange. (Writer's note: Mrs. Gilbert's name is Mae Henry, but the warrant was served as Caroline Gilbert). Sat. 6-21-47



Atlanta, Ga. Daily World Tues. 7-15-47

GEORGIA GUARDS' HANDIWORK —Four of the seven prisoners shot to death at State Highway Prison Camp Number 12, near Brunswick, present a gruesome picture near the barracks. This picture was taken a few hours after the prisoners were felled by shotgun and rifle fire in which officials claimed was a mass escape attempt. There are persistent rumors, however, that the slayings were unjustified, that the unarmed prisoners were slain after the warden, reportedly half intoxicated, told the guards to "let 'em have it." Glynn grand jurors are to look into the case Wednesday and no verdict has been rendered by the Glynn Coroner.

State Investigator Sees Prison Killings Justified

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Tues. 7-15-47

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — (SNS)— While a state investigator said in Atlanta Monday he did not believe Warden W. G. Worthy was drunk or had "been drinking" when he opened fire with a pistol in a move that led to the fatal shooting of seven Negro prisoners at State Highway Camp No. 12 near here, citizens were still considerably skeptical of the affair and demanding that the Glynn grand jury thoroughly sift the facts in the situation.

The Grand Jury is slated to look into the prison yard slaughter Wednesday.

J. E. Hatchett, assistant director of the State Department of Corrections, said in Atlanta that his investigation at the scene indicated Warden Worthy's actions throughout the day of the slayings were those of "a sober man trying to deal with a difficult situation..

Hatchett said he and Chief Prison Inspector Walter Matthews would report findings in their probe of the incident to a meeting of the Board of Corrections later Monday, but no announcement was of action was likely until after a grand jury investigation beginning in Brunswick Wednesday. Likewise, the coronor's jury which held an inquest into the deaths here Saturday withheld a decision until after the Glynn Superior Court grand jury meets.

At the inquest Saturday, Willie Bell testified that Warden Worthy was "half drunk" and "wanted to kill me." Another convict, Charles Veal, also testified that the Warden told Bell: "Come out, Peewee, I want to kill you." Another prisoner, Howard Adams, told the jury that the warden began shooting with his pistol and yelled to the guards "Let 'em have it." The warden denied the prisoners' accusations. He accused Bell of precipitating the trouble.

It was reported that the prisoners balked at entering fearsome waters on the Brunswick-Pelham highway early Friday and that they feared to get out of the line back in the highway camp enclosure for fear of being killed. Tues. 7-15-47

Sitting in on the inquest Saturday were A. A. Nathan, of Brunswick, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Committee; C. J. Cogdell, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and former state representative from Glynn county, and five members of the Brunswick chapter of the NAACP.

Prosecutor Says Prisoners To 'Lay Cards On Table'

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Thurs. 7-17-47

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—(SNS)— Investigation got underway Wednesday by the Glynn county grand jury in the prison massacre of eight Negro convicts and wounding of others Friday at a work camp here.

In instructing the 21-man jury Superior Judge Gordon Knox called for "thorough, fair, honest and impartial action without prejudice." He told the jurors that the slain men were "wards of the state", and asked them to take such action as they felt justified by the circumstances.

The main floor of the court room reserved for whites, was almost empty as the grand jury filed in to be charged by Judge Knox. The gallery, however, was overflowing with Negro spectators.

Fourteen Negro convicts awaited outside the courthouse in a truck heavily guarded, while several curious Negroes milled about it.

Glen Thomas, prosecuting attorney, declared that he was going to let the convicts "lay their cards on the table" before the jury. Further evidence to be shown the jury are shot riddled boards from the sides of the work camp bunkhouse. Moreover, buckshots removed from the slain convicts will be introduced

The first convict to be called before the jury was Willie Bell who survived the ruthless slaughter.

Attorneys, C. J. Cogdell and A. A. Nathan both of Brunswick, representing the NAACP and Civil Liberties League respectively, were seen outside the courtroom.

Thurs. 7-17-47

Warden W. G. Worthy, who participated in the massacre, claimed that the eight slain Negroes, the five who were injured and 14 others were fired on when they attempted a prison break after a day of disorders.

Other reports say that the Negroes were brutally massacred when the warden fired at one of the convicts and th others scurried for safety, for fear of being shot by the warden, who was said by one prisoner to have been drunk at the time.

5 Negroes Killed By Georgia Guards At Work Camp

PM

New york, N.y. Sun. 7-13-4

BRUNSWICK, Ga.

By Associated Press

Five Negro convicts were shot to death with shotguns and rifles and eight others wounded, two critically, Friday when they made an attempt to scale a 12-foot wire fence enclosing their prison camp near here.

Warden W. G. Worthy said five prison guards and police officers, who had been called to the camp to quell a disturbance, opened fire on 27 convicts as they raced toward the fence. Sun. 7-13-47

One of the Negroes, shot as he climbed the fence, toppled dead on the other side. When the shooting ended, five Negroes lay dead and eight were wounded. Fourteen prisoners came back with their hands up and surrendered, the warden said.

None of the Negroes was armed with knives or firearms, the warden said, but several carried short iron bars and sticks.

The warden and Glynn County Chief of Police Russell B. Henderson said the escape was "incited" by Willie Bell, who attacked the warden and attempted to disarm him, Bell was shot in the leg.

The camp is an all-Negro prison and has about 75 inmates.

The warden said a group of new prisoners refused to work and he called County Police.

Chief of police Russell B. Henderson of Glynn County talked to, the prisoners and when he finished talking to them they broke and ran to the barracks.

Officers opened fire with shotguns and rifles. Sun. 7-13-47

July 12, 1947

Guards Kill Five Negroes In Work Camp

By United Press

ANGUILLA, Ga.—Five negro convicts were killed and eight others wounded at a county work camp here late Friday in what authorities described as an uprising fomented by newly arrived prisoners.

Glynn County Police Chief Russell B. Henderson, who was summoned with an armed force to put down the riot, said the negroes were mowed down by camp guards after one, a long termer, "made a grab" for Camp Superintendent H. G. Worthy.

Worthy, witnesses said, shot the negro, Willie Bell, wounding him. The 26 others in the stockade then scattered in all directions. Three were killed as they scrambled under a nearby "bullpen," one as he reached the top of the wire enclosure and the other outright.

Henderson said camp guards did the shooting while his men held their fire.

The 27 prisoners, many of them just arrived from a camp at Folkston, had been returned to the stockade from a road detail after some of them reportedly cursed their guards for prodding them to work, Worthy said.

At the stockade, he said, they milled around, still fretful. While other camp officials called Henderson, Worthy said, he tried to "reason with them."

Bell made a lunge for him, he said, and he shot the negro wounding him slightly. The guards then opened fire at the others fleeing because, Worthy said, "they were trying to get away from my gun." So far as he could learn, he said, none of the negroes was armed.

7th Negro Dies in Prison Massacre

Daily Worker Mon. 7-14-47

By John Hudson Jones New york, N.Y.

The Negro people of Brunswick, Ga., are "up in arms" about Friday's prison camp massacre of Negro prisoners, it was revealed by a reliable source the Daily Worker reached by telephone yesterday. As the seventh man died yesterday of buckshot wounds and a coroner's jury failed to return a verdict, the Daily Worker informant declared that "the prevailing feeling among Negroes around here is that this has happened once too often, and it better not happen again." He indicated that Negro prisoners have been killed several times in the past. According to the Daily Worker informant and other reports, the real reason the men were shot down in cold blood, was that they balked at working in the snake-infested, stagnant water of the hot Glynn County swamps.

At the inquest, Willie H Bell, one of the six wounded men accused Warden W. G. Worthy of being in a drunken rage, and of inciting guards to the mass slaughter.

It developed that Worthy became enraged when the men grumbled, and had them herded into the Anguilla stockade after calling the Glynn County Police. Guards then pointed out Bell to Worthy as the man they considered the prisoners' leader. Mon. 7-14-47

FIVE KILLED INSTANTLY

Bell, who was shot and suffered a broken leg, told 80-year old Coroner J. D. Baldwin Saturday that Worthy was drunk and when they were lined up, said to him, **"Come out Pee Wee, I want to kill you."** Bell refused, whereupon Worthy shot him down, and yelled to the guards, **"Let 'em have it!"**

It was then that the men broke for cover from the blasts of the 12-gauge shot guns and pistols. Five were killed instantly. Two died in the Brunswick hospital.

The Daily Worker informant pointed to the conflicting stories of Worthy and Glynn County Police Chief Russell B. Henderson, who with some of his men were present at the shooting. Henderson said there was little likelihood that the men were trying to escape.

He denied however that Worthy had been drinking. He ordered his men to hold their fire. Camp guards did the shooting.

Charles Veal, and Howard Adams, both prisoners from Atlanta told the inquest that Worthy was drinking and shouted "Let 'em have it!"

In the white community many citizens are incensed and shamed over the massacre, and have expressed strong desires that the guards be "prosecuted to the limit," declared the informant.

NAACP RETAINS LAWYER

At the coroner's inquest yesterday five members of the Local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were present, headed by C. M. Moore, A local white attorney, C. J. Cogdell, has been rteained by the NAACP. Mon. 7-14-47

Moore told news men yesterday, "We are not upholding willful law violators, but so many rumors have been crurent since this unfortunate affair we feel that a full sifting of the incident should be made."

As to general Negro community feeling, the Daily Worker source said: "They are going to fight this thing through. I don't think they thing through. I don't think they will accept any fainthearted leadership. They're fighting mad."

Here in New York, Walter White, NAACP secretary, said he's wired U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark urging an immediate federal investigation.

The all-Negro work camp is some 12 miles west of Brunswick, whose Jekyll Island was once the famed playground of millionaires.

A Glynn County Supreme Grand Jury will sit Wednesday and consider the incident. Baldwin has indicated his verdict will come after them. Mon. 7-14-47

Meanwhile the Negro people of Brunswick are girding themselves to see that justice is done.

Seven Men Died

MURDER again stalks Georgia.

A drunken guard in one of its hellish prisons shouts "let 'em have it," and seven Negro prisoners are riddled with lead, their lives snuffed out in one burst of animal rage. Daily Worker New york, N.Y.

It is part of the post-war atmosphere of "putting the Negro back in his place," an atmosphere whipped up by the local press, the plantation masters and their dupes.

An 80-year-old coroner is investigating.

Wiseacres in the room smile as the guards swear blandly that the prisoners "tried to escape."

Negro prisoners swear that it was only the drunken brutality of an armed guard, with an itchy trigger-finger that caused this wanton massacre of unarmed men.

There is not a decent person, knowing the hellholes of Georgia prisons and the evils of the Jimcrow system, who will not recognize the truth of these charges. It is an all-too-familiar scene. Tues. 7-15-47

Every one of these crimes cries out against the laxity of Washington, the seat of federal power, the only authority in the country that can halt these crimes.

* * *

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, Tom Clark of Texas, has said that he has observers at the local hearings.

To observe what?

To listen to the oft-told tale of murder and lynching, and to take notes that will alibi inaction by the Department of Justice? To mutter the stale excuses of "states' rights" all over again?

The Negro people cannot get protection against murder from local authorities, who are either accomplices or too weak to act.

It is only the full authority of the United States that can provide protection against murder and the punishment of the killers.

It is the nation that is being defied in these outrages.

The time is long past when the country can be fobbed off by legalistic alibis in Washington. It is prompt action that is demanded. Tues. 7-15-47

Prison Warden 'Half-Drunk,' Leader Of Prisoners Declares

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser Sun. 7-13-47

BRUNSWICK, GA., July 12.—(U.P.)—The leader of 27 rebellious Negro prisoners testified today a "half-drunk" warden yelled "mow 'em down" and his guards blasted to death seven of the convicts penned in a Glynn County camp stockade. Sun. 7-13-47

Willie (Pee Wee) Bell, serving life for murder, told a coroner's jury that Warden H. G. Worthy entered the stockade late yesterday, shot him in the leg "when I fell against him" and then gave the command to fire.

Worthy denied he was drinking or that he ordered the guards, deployed outside the wire enclosure with rifles and shotguns. to fire into the crowd. He said the guards fired because after Bell "lunged at him" and he shot, the other convicts raced for the fence in an escape break.

The coroner's jury abruptly recessed its probe late today after Superior (Circuit) Judge Gordon Knox called a grand jury for next Wednesday to investigate the mass shooting. Knox had been requested to call the jury by a lawyer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

One of the Negroes involved testified the warden swung two pick handles around before he entered the stockade and called "come on out Pee Wee, I want to kill you." He said Bell backed into the crowd and asked Worthy to let him take off his shoes before he died.

Worthy told the jury he had not been drinking, that he had argued long to quell the disturbance and that he shot Bell only when the Negro lunged for him. He said Pee Wee kept the others fuming and he wanted to isolate him in solitary confinement.

Georgia has outlawed the lash and sweat box. Sun. 7-13-47

The warden said that when one Negro tried to scale the fence, he yelled to Guard G. P. McNabb to halt him. McNabb said he shot and the Negro toppled over the fence dead. Other guards killed the other five in a burst of rapid firing.

County Police Chief Russell Henderson, who witnessed the killings, denied that Worthy was drinking. He also denied testimony of a Negro witness that he started the shooting with a submachinegun. The chief said neither he nor two of his own officers present fired a shot.

During questioning, Coroner Baldwin asked Bell "didn't you know you ought to be killed for the way you acted?" He also asked the Negro if he had not "cooked up" a revolt scheme the night before the trouble. Bell denied it. Sun. 7-13-47

Worthy testified that three short lengths of iron pipe and a hickory stock were found in the stockade after the shooting.

Officer Kills Man Resisting Arrest

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution Fri. 5-30-47

SARDIS, Ga., May 29—(AP)—A 25-year-old Negro, released from the Navy a week ago, was shot to death here Thursday after he had threatened to kill one white man and then fired a shotgun at a deputy sheriff, missing the officer by inches.

Identified by Burke County Sheriff Otis Cliett as Nathan Roberts, the Negro was shot by Deputy C. L. McNarrell who also used a shotgun after escaping the charge fired at him, as he sought to arrest the Negro at the latter's home.

A short time earlier, according to Sheriff Cliett, the Negro had an argument with James Bargeron, 26-year-old bookkeeper for the Vesta Lumber Company, at Sardis, had wrested a pistol from Brgeron and then marched the young white man some 200 yards toward nearby woods where, according to Cliett, the Negro said he was "going to kill" Bargeron.

Bargerono was saved, the Sheriff said, when Roberts' aged father saw his son wielding the pistol, and took it from him. He unloaded the weapon and handed it to Bargeron, who then summoned the Sheriff. Fri. 5-30-47

Secrecy Shrouds Inquiry Of Jury In Prison Deaths

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Fri. 7-18-47

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—(SNS)— Secrecy shrouded a Glynn County Grand Jury's investigation of the fatal shooting of seven Negro convicts at a public works camp last Friday.

The Grand Jury continued its secret interrogation of witnesses Thursdey after members spent two hours inspecting the scene of the bloody prison massacre where Warden Worthy is alleged to have cried "Let'em have it."

Fri. 7-18-47

There was no indication that witnesses would change their testimony which indicated that Warden Worthy in a drunken rage ordered guards to pour bullets into the helpless victims as they fled in panic from his drawn gun.

While at the camp, located 15 miles from Brunswick, the jurors questioned prisoners and one of the guards whose name was withheld.

The Brunswick prison massacre occurred after the Negro prisoners had been herded into the prison yard when the refused to work on a highway project. Guards reported they opened fire with shotguns when the convicts attempted to break from the yard. Five other convicts were wounded.

Georgia Jury OKs Massacre Of Negroes by Prison Guards

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

By Harry Raymond Sat. 7-19-47

BRUNSWICK, Ga., July 18.—An all-white Glynn County grand jury declared today that prison guards who massacred eight Negro prisoners a week ago in nearby Anguila Stockade were "justified in their action." Warden W. G. Worthy, who launched the massacre by firing his pistol into a huddled group of helpless prisoners, and seven guards who joined in the shooting were lauded by the jury as "acting in order to maintain order."

The grand jury presentment whitewashing the tragedy was handed down at 4:30 p.m., EST, in Judge Gordon Knox's Superior Court room. The jury had been in continuous session for three days.

During that time 30 witnesses, mostly prison officials and a few handpicked prisoners, were questioned in the jury room.

The jury stated trouble in the state prison camp began early last Friday when a group of inmates refused to work on the highway The prisoners claimed they stopped when told to work in snake-infested swamp water without boots. This charge was not mentioned in the presentment.

AMPLE TIME

The warden, according to the jury, gave the prisoners "ample time to return to work" but 27 refused and were returned to the camp. There, said the jury, "the guards were subjected to violent cursing."

"The warden decided to restore order," said the jury. "The warden fired to protect himself. Many of the men ran. And the guards fired."

To give an aroma of justification to the act, the jury explained that Negro inmates were "hardened, desperate criminals," the "most unruly, undisciplined convicts in the state." Sat. 7-19-47

The presentment further charged "one convict ran toward the warden and the guards." But in the next phrase the jury offered the explanation that the guards "acted to prevent escape of the prisoners."

Charges by prisoners that the warden fired while in a 'drunken rage" were declared untrue by the jury.

DENOUNCE LAW

The jury presentment concluded by recommending that the prison camp be removed from the county and denouncing the Georgia law, enacted in 1946, abolishing chains and striped suits in convict camps.

"This would not have happened if the men were in chains and stripes," said the jury statement.

Word of the whitewash spread rapidly through the Negro community, which was thoroughly aroused by the jury's action.

Shortly before the jury report was issued, Autin T. Walden, Negro attorney from Atlanta and Georgia state counsel for the National Assocition for the Advancement of Colored People, arrived at the courthouse. He announced plans would be discussed for legal action against the prison guards. Many white citizens, including county commissioner Sam A. Levine, have pledged support to the NAACP in this fight.

A meeting of the local NAACP branch was scheduled for tonight at which a program of action will be presented.

Brunswick, Ga. News

July 12, 1947

NEGRO ORGANIZATION ISSUES STATEMENT

CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION OF CONVICT SHOOTINGS NEAR HERE

The local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today announced the organization had employed attorneys to represent it and that a demand will be made for a full investigation of the killing and wounding of a number of prisoners at the state prison camp near here yesterday afternoon.

The statement issued by the organization is as follows:

"The National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People has entered the general investigation covering the killing of some six negroes at the Glynn County convict farm, near Brunswick. We have retained Colon J. Cogdell, Brunswick attorney, to see that proper disposition of this investigation is made.

"As an organization we are interested only in seeing that all facts are brought to light and those that need and deserve condemnation receive it, and also those who deserve punishment for any misdeeds receive their just desserts. We are not upholding wilful law violators, but so many rumors have been current since this unfortunate affair, we feel that a full sifting of the incidents should be had.

"We feel that a grand jury should make a complete probe and accordingly we are requesting Judge Gordon Knox to reconvene the present May term grand jury for that purpose. The solicitor general, Hon. Glenn Thomas, of Jesup, will be contacted and his usual vigorous handling of such matters will be requested. Attorney General Tom Clark will be requested to have appropriate representatives present to make a full and complete investigation respecting the violation of Federal statutes.

"After proper authorities have completed their investigations and made their recommendations, the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People will probably have other statements to make."

Sheriff Slays 65-Yr-Old Georgetown Man In Home

Memphis World

Memphis, Tenn.

GEORGETOWN, Ga.—(SNS)—65-year-old Ball Smith was mortally wounded Saturday night by Sheriff H F. Herrington, who claimed that he shot the aged man in a gun battle that developed when Smith sought to prevent the arrest of his son, T. D. Smith, 17, on a felony warrant. The sheriff was also wounded slightly. Fri. 7-18-47

Herrington said he opened fire when Smith cursed him and brandished a revolver, declaring that he would not permit the arrest of his son.

"I had a warrant for T. D. Smith charging him with assault to murder in the shooting of another Negro," Herrington said, "and I went to the Smith home five miles from here to serve it. Earl Martin, a friend, rode out there with me," said the Sheriff.

The Sheriff stated that when he walked into the house, not expecting any trouble, he told young Smith that he had a warrant for his arrest. At this point the Sheriff claimed that Ball Smith cursed him and said that "no white man is going to put his hands on my boy. You got your gun and I got mine."

SHOOTING STARTS

Ball started shotting, the Sherriff said, and he returned the fire killing Ball instantly. When he exchanged shots with Ball several other Negroes in the room opened fire on him and Martin, asserted the Sheriff. One shot sent his gun careening from his hand, said Sheriff Herrington, and immediately he and his friend were ganged by the group. Fri. 7-18-47

"Martin only had a flashlight as he tried to defend himself. He managed to break loose and get to the car outside. "He went for help," said the Sheriff. "The Negroes almost beat me into unconsciousness. When my head cleared, I staggered out of the house," the Sheriff added.

Herrington further claimed that shots were fired at Martin as he was fleeing from the scene in a truck on which he caught a ride

Upon return of the Sheriff and a posse, only the body of Ball was said to have been found. The others were said to have fled.

14c 1947

Negroes by Policemen (Georgia)

Unwise Agitation

Atlanta Con.

Editor Constitution: Concerning the shooting of those eight prisoners down at Brunswick, I wish at the beginning to say that I am not a Negro hater and believe in treating them right. But what if those convicts had been white? Would anybody have raised a voice about it? What are those guards doing on the walls and watchtowers of the Federal penitentiary armed with machineguns? In case the prisoners tried a mass escape would they open the gates for them, furnish a truck and kiss them farewell, saying "go on, murder and burglarize some more?"

10-8-47

All this agitation is just fanning the flame of unrest and hatred among our colored peoples and is encouraged by a lot of politicians seeking their votes. I can't believe the right thinking colored people anywhere approve such a course.

And talking about your civil rights, I think a person convicted of a felony has lost his civil rights.

Constitution

Atlanta. J. F. SIMMONS.

No Cause for Alarm

14c

AFTER extensive investigation of the Anguilla, Georgia, jail massacre, in which eight Negro chain-gang convicts were slain by prison sentries (the *NR*, July 28), a federal grand jury has returned indictments against Warden H. G. Worthy and four guards. The indictments declare Worthy and his men fired shotguns "wantonly, unnecessarily and without just cause" at the prisoners "for the purpose of imposing illegal summary punishment."

New Republic 10-13-47

But the niceties of the law have pretty well protected the defendants from any serious punishment for committing what Glynn County Commissioner Sam Levine called an "outrageous murder." The federal indictment has been able to charge only that the warden and his henchmen violated the civil-rights statutes by depriving the eight prisoners of life "without due process of law." The maximum sentence for conviction, which is unlikely in a Georgia court, is a $1,000 fine, a year in jail, or both.

10-13-47

Convicts

Atlanta Constitution

Editor Constitution: I would like to make this observation to reader J. F. Simmons, who evidently did not read the account of the convicts' refusal to go into a snake-infested swamp without boots, and were brought in for punishment. Had the men wanted to make a break would they have waited until they were back in camp, when they could have had a better chance of success while out on the road?

Thu. 10-8-47 A READER.

Atlanta.

Photographers Exhibit Views Of Dead Victims

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

10-29-47

Eyewitnesses Tell How Mates Were Slain By Guards

Wed.

By MARION E. JACKSON

BRUNSWICK, Ga.— (SNS)— A courtroom crowded to every nook and crevice heard the stark and dramatic events that unfolded prior to the shooting of eight Negro convicts told through the lips of five survivors of that baptism of fire here in the Glynn county courthouse as Willie "Pee Wee" Bell took the stand to accuse Warden H. G. Worthy, Warden of the camp, of having ordered guards to fire on the prisoners of camp number 18, resulting in the death of 8 convicts and the wounding of three.

Wed.

Bell's was a dramatic highlight of the two-day old trial followed close on the heels of informative treatment of the trial-value of pictures taken by two photographers, Jack Hice and Ben W. Caples, former FBI agent, who was questioned by both the defense and the prosecution on their interpretation of the significance of the pictures, which showed bodies of four prisoners lying in front of the barracks and one body on the fence.

Daily World

Defense Attorney Vance Mitchell asked Caples if Flarges and two iron pipes constitute dangerous weapons in the hands of the prisoners. Caples said they would.

Atlanta, Ga.

TESTIMONY RELATED

Willie Bell followed Caples to the stand and told the Federal jury that Worthy had ordered him to come out of a line-up of convicts who had refused to work on a water-filled, snake-infested ditch.

He declared that the warden had sent for two pick handles a few minutes before and he refused to come out because he was afraid when he refused to come out of the line-up. Bell told the jury that Worthy told him, "Pee Wee, you are coming out or I'll kill you. "I didn't come out and I didn't come towards worthy" Bell testified. "None of the prisoners had any kind of weapons. Worthy shot at me while he was standing 15 feet away from me. Then the guards started firing. Some of the men started running. A few tried to get under the barrack building".

"I pulled my shoes after I was shot because I didn't want to die with them on. Several others did too."

Wed. 10-29-47

WARDEN LIKED PRISONERS

James Maxwell, serving from 9 to 15 years for burglary corroborated Bells' testimony. Armour Stephens told the jury, guard McNabb threattened to kill some of the prisoners on the ditch clearing job.

Defense Atty. Vance Mitchell failed to shake the testimony of M. C. Scott, one of the convicts on the ditch-clearing project.

Cecil Hicks told the jury that, guard McNabb had requested the convicts to take off their hats and bow each time they started a new task. He said that Warden Worthy sort of liked me. While explaining why he had boots and the other prisoners didn't.

Most dramatic moment during the trial came when Atty. Mitchell asked Scott why wasn't he shot. Scott replied, "I guess the Lord was with me." Mitchell asked, "What do you mean the Lord was with you?" Scott answered simply, "Don't the Lord be with you sometimes?" He was excused immediately while the court broke into loud laughs. The trial continues into the third day today with former warden, H. B. Worthy and guards Guy, McNabb, Rember Bazemore, B. L. Holmes and W. G. Lawler on trial charged with depriving the prisoners of their lives without due process of the law or specifically violating U. S. code 51 and 52

NEGRO PRESENT

If convicted on the federal charge the defendants face a year in prison, a $1,000 fine or both.

The trial is being conducted in the Glynn county courthouse, which is situated in the middle of a park-like garden which gives it a quaint and picturesque setting. Negro spectators turned out en masse for the trial yesterday and packed the balcony to capacity.

Despite the widespread publicity given the trial no undue excitement was evident in Brunswick and the townsfolk only sketchily discussed the case.

Throughout the testimony, Willie "Pee Wee' Bell insisted that Warden Worthy was drunk. Questioned by Atty. Vance Mitchell regarding his numerous escapes from the camp, Bell blamed his conduct on mistreatment. He stated that at one time the warden used brass knuckles on the convicts.

Daily World

Bell accused Russell Henderson chief of Glynn County police, called to aid the guards, of taking part in the shooting. Pressed for details, he declared the county chief raised a tommy gun and "mowed'em down".

James Maxwell declared that Henderson fired after Worthy shot. Maxwell said Henderson waved a "tommy gun" and cried "this is it" and started shooting.

Atlanta, Ga.

Other convics-Cecil Hicks, M. C. Scott and Willie James Stephens told almost identical versions of the shooting.

Physician Says Sweatbox Terror Okay With Him

World

Memphis, Tenn.

Fri. 10-31-47

Dr. McDaniel States Warden Worthy Not Hard Enough

14c

By MARION E. JACKSON

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—(SNS)—The trial of H. B. Worthy and four former guards was brought to a dramatic halt here Wednesday to allow a Federal Jury to view the site of former prison camp and its sweatbox after Dr. S. P. McDaniel, physician of the Brunswick hospital, and former physician at the prison camp told the jury hearing that he didn't think it inhuman to keep a prisoner in the confines of a sweatbox from 16 to 17 days or specifically three weeks.

The break in the trial came after the prosecution called to the attention of Dr. McDaniel that sweatbox with its small air holes, bread and water and terror had been halted by the Georgia Board of Corrections more than four years ago and yet such practice had its approval and sanction in spite of all evidence to the contrary, showing these devices hampered human existence.

Dr. McDaniel earlier had testified, "I don't think it inhuman to put prisoners in a sweatbox 16 or 17 days or 21. They have been doing it since the camp started four years ago.

He stated that he had inspected the prisoners who had been confined in sweatbox and found that it was only detrimental if they stayed too long. "I didn't think three weeks' time was long enough. Many times Warden Worthy let them out before I would have done it. If I had been in his position I would have kept them longer. But he was more inclined to go the other way.

Dr. McDaniel said that he had never found any evidence of prisoners' being mistreated, he testified. "I talked with Mr. Worthy the evening the men were shot. Worthy could not have possibly been drunk, nor did he do any acting that would indicate he had been drinking."

THREATENS PRISON PATIENT

The physician continued his testimony by describing to the court that the action of "Pee Wee' Bell as similar to an "enraged bull" after he was carried to the Brunswick city hospital for treatment. Dr. McDaniel told the jury that Bell used profanity, lots of profanity, and was so vulgar that I promised to kick him in the ribs if he didn't shut up.

Earlier in the morning before the testimony of Dr. McDaniel, which halted the trial, Hulett Benford, of 105 Kenyon Street, Atlanta, had told the jury that the second shot fired by Warden H. B. Worthy started a fusillade of bullets that rained death on 27 men in the Glynn County prison camp.

Benford denied that bullets ripped the bodies of the men after they had fallen as defense attorney Vance Mitchell triumphantly hammered home the point.

JUDGE DISSENTS

Brunswick City Judge R. S. Simmons told the jury that although the coroner's jury had cleared Worthy in fatal shooting of the men, he had not concurred in the report.

Leroy Hill, of Pearson, Ga., convict, told the jury that Willie "Pee Wee" Bell refused to come out of the line up because he feared death at the hands of Worthy. He quoted Worthy as saying, "I'm going to kill Pee Wee" to Glynn County Police Chief Russell Henderson. The latter, he said, replied, "Suit yourself."

Earl Williams, prisoner from Cartersville, Ga., who was convicted in the Fulton Superior court, told the jury that Worthy told them after a request to see Mr. C. A. Williams of the Atlanta Board of Corrections that "you won't be able to see Mr. Williams or any of that Atlanta crowd or if you do you won't be able to tell them anything."

SAYS WORTHY LEADS

Williams declared that Capt. Worthy led the fire and Chief Russell Henderson followed with the guards joining in pouring a volley of bullets into the men's bodies. He blamed brutal treatment in the prison camps for his previous escapes.

Williams blamed the death of Harvey Lewis, escaped Negro convict on Warden H. B. Worthy and stated that Warden Worthy was incensed at Bell for accusing him of the murder of the escaped convict, whose body was found four days after his escape floating in a pool of water near the camp.

He said that Warden Worthy asked six inmates of the Anquilla Camp to step out of the group who had protested against working in a water filled, snake-infested ditch.

Warden Worthy, according to Williams told Police Chief Russell Henderson to take away the pick handles, but was going to lineup his six niggers and kill the rest.

Leon Smith, Brunswick mortician, who embalmed the bodies, testified that he had picked up James Smith Jonas Smith, Lillie Amos Wright and John W. Stevens, but couldn't identify where they were shot.

Dr. S. P. McDaniels told the jury that he had identified the bodies four days after the shooting upon the request of the coroner, who asked him to use X-ray and fluoroscope, but failed to find any type of bullets in the men's bodies, except buck shots.

He gave lengthy testimony on the angles the bullets entered the bodies of Jonas Smith, James Smith, George Patterson, Willie Frank Chambers, Henry Mason, Lillie Wright, Dan Stevens, Lillie Brooks and Wes Rackson.

Dr. McDaniel declared that Willie Brooks made a death-bed confession of "wrong-doing" to Guard Remer Bazemore. He said Bazemore told him "Why didn't you come out of the lineup when you started, then you wouldn't have been in this."

Further testimony revealed by Dr. McDaniel quoted Willie Bell as saying, "If I had a gun they would have never gotten away with this."

WITHOUT DUE PROCESS

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

Pistol packing Warden Worthy of Brunswick, Georgia, who ordered prison camp guards to murder eight Negroes last July was cleared by a Superior Court Grand Jury shortly thereafter. The Georgia court held that the shootings were justified on the grounds that the prisoners were trying to escape. This specious argument was exploded by the testimony of witnesses but Warden Worthy got out of the mess unscathed.

Last week, however, a Federal court returned indictments in the case which named the warden and four of the trigger-happy prison guards. They are charged with depriving the colored prisoners of their lives "without due process of law" and further depriving them of their constitutional right "to be secure in their person while in the custody of the State of Georgia and to be immune from illegal attack at the hands of officers and employes of the State of Georgia." Sat. 10-11-47

While the action of the Federal government in prosecuting this case is certainly commendable, we have no illusions about the final outcome. Uncle Sam is treated like the proverbial poor relation in racial matters in dear old Dixie. Although Georgia considers itself a member of the union, any action against the racists by Federal agents is generally interpreted by the natives as "outside interference."

Warden Worthy was accused of being drunk when he ordered the massacre and he was quoted as coaxing a prisoner out of hiding by saying, "Come out, Peewee. I want to kill you." There is no question that the prisoners were deliberately murdered and the civil rights of the prisoners were and had been for some time wantonly abused. These facts are freely admitted by many white Georgians. We hope that Federal government will follow up these indictments with sincere and zealous efforts to punish those guilty of this outrageous crime. There is no confusion about the facts and no one is being fooled by the lame excuses of Warden Worthy.

Finale to Mass Murder

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The indictment last week by the Federal government **of** the warden and four guards who cold-bloodedly shot **down** eight colored convicts at the Glynn County road **camp** near Brunswick, Ga., on July 11, indicates that **these** murdered men may be avenged.

These five murderers who shot down their black **charges** without reason are charged with depriving their **victims** of their lives without due process of law by **firing** their shotguns "wantonly, unnecessarily and without **just** cause."

If there is any **sense** of justice left in Georgia, it is **difficult** to **see** how any Federal jury can fail to find **these** men guilty.

It was testified at the inquest that the warden, one **H. G. Worthy, was either drunk or half-drunk, and information disclosed by The Pittsburgh Courier** correspondent **that the unarmed prisoners inside the high-walled stockade were simply murdered as the warden yelled "Mow 'Em Down!"**

10-11-47

Glynn County officials have denounced the shoot**ings as murder even though a** Superior Court Grand Jury **upheld the** contention of the warden that the killings **were justified when the prisoners attempted to escape— the hoariest alibi in history.**

The men who serve as wardens and guards at road camps are usually just about the lowest type of human beings available, and they think no more of killing a man, especially a Negro convict, than they do of smoking a cigarette.

Sat.

They need to be taught a lesson which will not be lost upon others of their ilk in that section of the country.

Whatever may be the outcome of this case, however, one thing at least has been accomplished—the closing down of all county road camps throughout the State, and the virtual end of a system which long has been a disgrace to civilization.

Ga. Warden, Guards Cited by U.S. Court

The Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.

Bloody Massacre of Eight Prisoners Last July Branded as 'Wanton' Act

Sat. 10-11-47

SAVANNAH—Warden H. G. Worthy and four guards, Guy McNabb, Remer Bazemore, H. L. Holmes and W. C. Lawler, were indicted by a Federal court here Oct. 1, under the civil rights statutes, for depriving eight prisoners shot to death last July 11 in the Glynn county camp near Brunswick of their life "without due process of law."

A State Superior Court grand jury earlier had upheld the wardens defense that the shootings were justified when the prisoners allegedly attempted a mass escape.

If the five are convicted, they face penalties of a $1000 fine each, or one year in prison, or both. All were at liberty when the indictment was returned.

Civil Rights Violated

They were charged specifically with depriving the prisoners of their Constitutional right "to be secure in their person while in the custody o the State of Georgia; and

"To be immune from illegal attack at the hands of officers and employees of the State," while in custody of the State of Georgia; and

The Afro-American

to punishment without due process of law," or "deprived of life without due process of law."

Baltimore, Md.

Pogrom Not Justified

The Federal indictment charged further that the warden and guards fired their shotguns "wantonly, unnecessarily, and without just cause" at the eight victims and two other prisoners who were wounded, for the purpose of imposing illegal summary punishment. Sat. 10-11-47

One of the wounded prisoners, Willie (Pee Wee) Bell testified at a coroner's inquest following the massacre that Warden Worthy was "half drunk" and "wanted to kill me."

The warden denied this, saying that he shot Bell in the leg when the latter charged at him and tried to disarm him.

He added that he ordered the prisoners back to the stockade to "reason wit hthem," when they refused to work in a swampy area without boots because it was infested with snakes.

An investigation by the NAACP branch in Brunswick revealed that none of the prisoners tried to escape, that they became terror-stricken when the warden and guards started to mow them down at the former's command, and ran about in the stockade for cover.

Pictures Indict Killers

Pictures taken at the scene of the shootings and carried by the press, showed that the bodies of the slain prisoners rested near the billets to which they were fleeing.

Only one prisoner was shot down while trying to scale the barbed-wire fence in panic.

Bell's testimony that the warden was "half drunk" was supported by another prisoner, Charles Veal, who testified that the warden was drinking and called to Bell: "Come out, Pee Wee. I want to kill you."

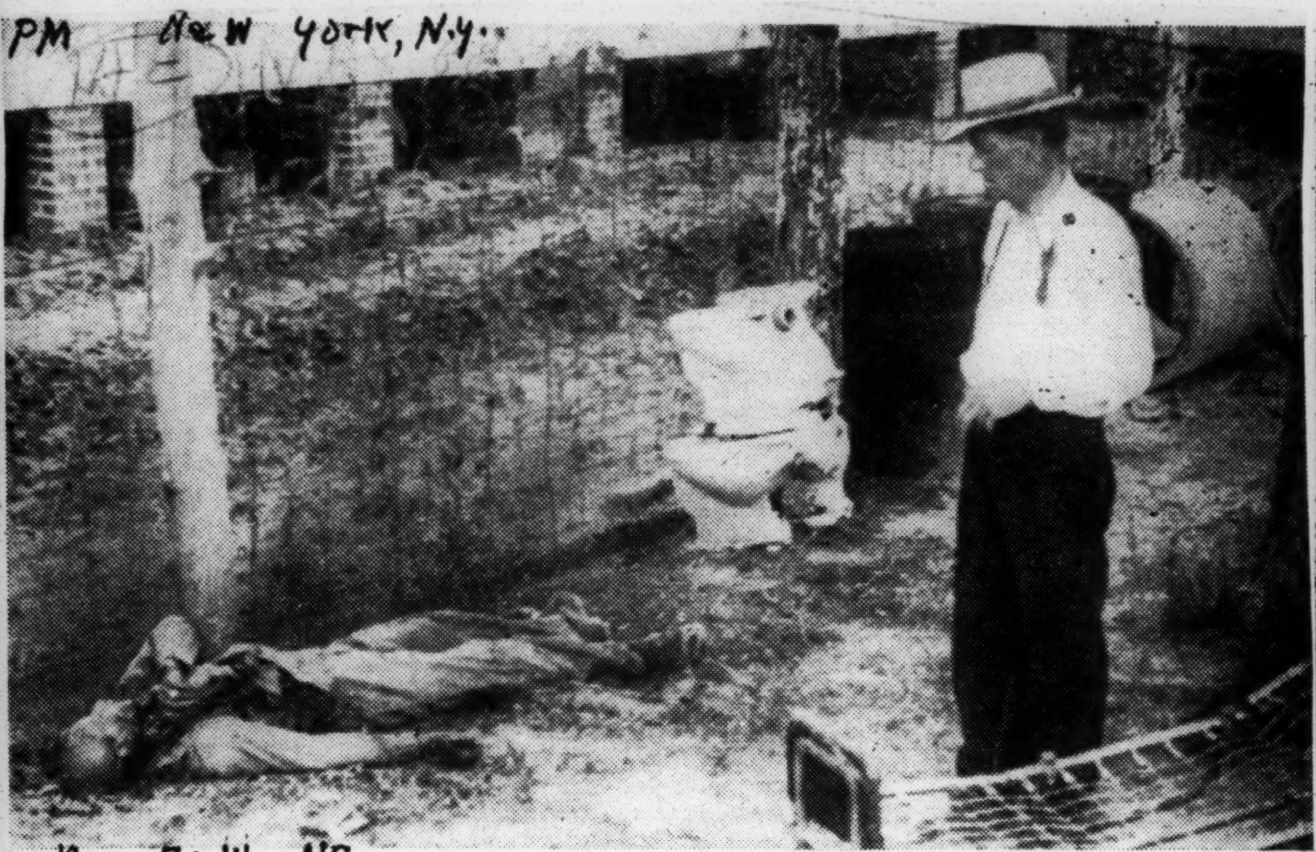
County Chief Aided

County Police Chief Henderson whom the warden summoned for aid, is alleged to have driven to Brunswick, 16 miles away, and brought back a submachine gun.

The warden allegedly drew his gun, advanced on the prisoners to bring out Bell, and then ordered the guards to "let 'em have it," when Bell refused to obey his order to come out. Sat. 10-11-47

The Glynn County camp, operated by the State Highway Department, and other camps for white convicts were ordered closed after nation-wide protests over the massacre.

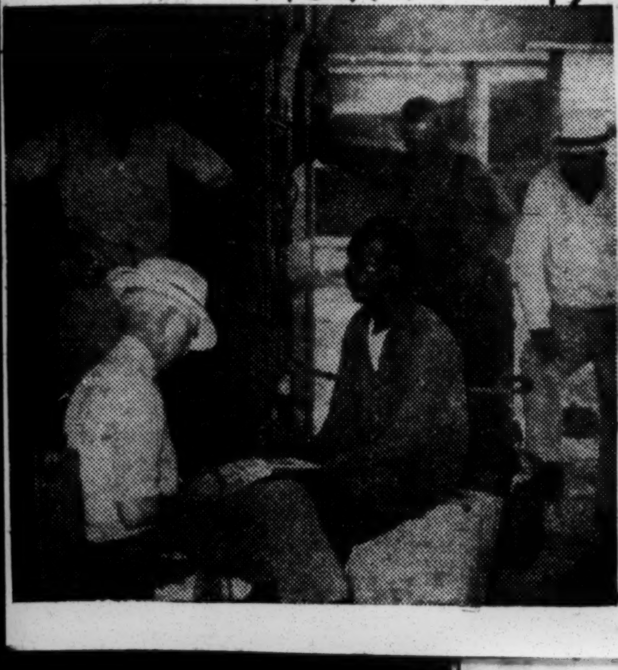
PM New York, N.Y.

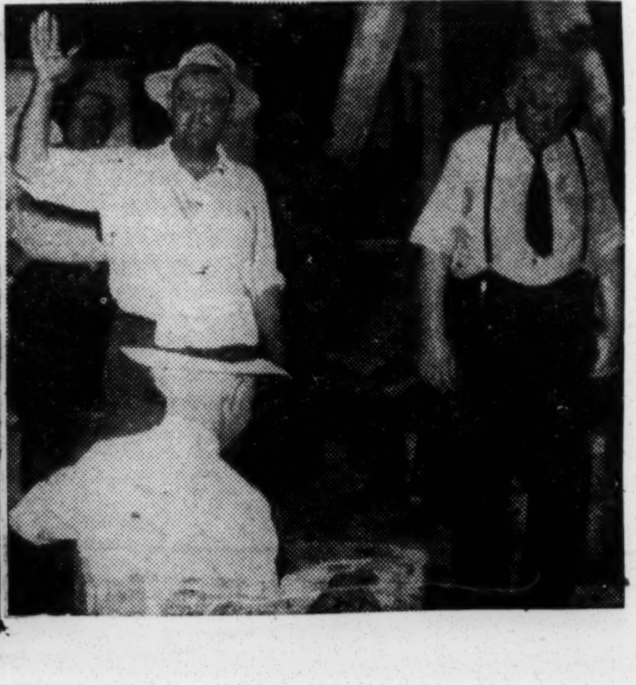


Mon. 7-14-47

A guard at a work camp near Brunswick, Ga., looks at the body of one of the men slain when guards fired into a group of milling Negro prisoners, killing seven and wounding six others. Testimony at the inquest Saturday was that the men were trying to get out of range of the pistol of Warden W. G. Worthy (below, left, being sworn in by clerk at inquest) who had just shot and wounded Willie Bell (below, right, testifying at the inquest). Bell and another prisoner testified that Worthy had been drinking. One of the prisoners said that Worthy called to Bell: "Come out Peewee, I want to kill you," and that Bell was shot in the leg when he refused. He said that Worthy called to his men: "Let 'em have it." Worthy said he did not order his guards to fire, but that they "knew to let 'em have it" when the men started running. County Police Chief Russel B. Henderson, did not fire into the prisoners' pen, and had instructed his men to hold their fire. The inquest was conducted by 80-year-old County Coroner J. D. Baldwin (standing in photo, below, left). A Grand Jury investigation has been ordered for Wednesday. Attorney General Tom Clark has been asked to have "appropriate representatives present."

Mon. 7-14-47





QUIZZED IN PRISON CAMP SLAYINGS

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Thurs. 7-17-47

MEMBERS OF A CORONER'S JURY question Warden W. G. Worthy (left, seated) concerning the slaying of seven Negro convicts at a prison camp near Brunswick, Ga., in what officials said was an attempted escape by the prisoners. A surviving convict told the jury that the warden drew a pistol and shouted, "Let 'em have it." (*International Soundphoto*)

NEGRO LEADERS CALL FOR PROBE BY STATE OFFICIALS

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World Sat. 7-12-47

SPECIAL TO THE WORLD

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — (SNS) — Five Negro convicts were slain and eight others reported wounded, here late Friday afternoon at a state prisson camp in Glenn County, 16 miles northwest of Brunswick. The unprecedented slayings were said to have occurred when prison guards ordered the convicts to an assignment in fearsome waters in the swamp where they had been detailed. The convicts, all unarmed, were reported to have been slain by the prison guard when they balked at carrying out the orders.

Two of the eight wounded convicts are not expected to live, according to an Atlanta Daily World informant, who gave his version of the prison camp massacre in a long distance telephone communication. Edward McNeil, an Atlanta man, is one of the wounded not expected to live. The other identified, is from Macon. None of the slain convicts could be identified late Friday night.

Negro leaders at Brunswick, deeply disturbed over the slayings, wired Governor M. E. Thompson, demanding a sweeping investigation. A grand jury investigation has also been proposed and is expected to begin very soon after a coroner's jury's investigation set for 10 a.m. this morning, has been completed.

Sat. 7-12-47

It was also indicated that Brunswick Negro leaders had addressed a communication to the office of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People setting forth the circumstances surrounding the slayings and calling upon them to assist. Local legal counsel has also been engaged.

DEFENDS PRISON SHOOTING

Georgia Officer Says Guards Had to Fire to Halt Escape

Times (New York, N.Y.

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Oct. 30 (AP) —A county police chief, Russell Henderson, told a Federal Court jury today that he believed it was necessary for guards to fire at running Negro prisoners at a South Georgia prison camp last July 11 to prevent an escape. Eight Negroes were shot to death.

Mr. Henderson testified that the alleged ringleader, Willie Bell, made a "lunge" for Warden W. G. Worthy before the latter fired at Bell's legs.

Fri. 10-31-47

B. G. Hall, warden of the Folkston camp, told the jury he took thirty-seven prisoners to the Glynn Camp the day before the shooting. He said he overheard Wes Jeckson tell other prisoners in the group that "when we get down there we will take that damn camp." He added that after arriving at the Glynn Camp, one of the eight Negroes killed, called to him and said "We will leave by one way or another."

The Glynn County Massacre

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Six Negro prisoners were killed at a Glynn County prison camp near Brunswick, Georgia, late Friday afternoon. Seven others were reported seriously wounded, one of whom is not expected to live. All of the prisoners, reports state, were unarmed. The cause of the unprecedented slayings was said to have been attributed to a refusal by the convicts to accept an assignment in the fearsome waters of a swamp in the Glynn marshes.

Brunswick Negro leaders have called for a sweeping investigation of the killings. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has wired Governor Thompson, asking him to direct a thorough probe of the slayings. We cannot within the span of our memory, recall such wholesale slayings of unarmed convicts, even in the worst days of Georgia prison camp history. Sun. 7-13-47

Georgia's chaingang history has been a great blot upon the pride of our state. Former Governor Ellis Arnall completely revamped these rules, abolishing the whip lash, the chaingang and blotted out many of the cruel abuses which gave the state a black eye in the association of sister states.

But despite this forward looking step, we are still able to report such a disgraceful thing as took place at Brunswick Friday; we are still able to report the action of a Jones County Warden, who, after kicking a prisoner for "back talk," suffered a broken arm, severely beating a prisoner with a stick and not satisfied, beating him again the next day for a third time, the last time with a mattock handle because of extreme anger.

It is going to be extremely difficult for the outside world to believe any explanation of uncontrolled insurrection contributed to the cause of the Glynn County massacre. Nothing can be found to justify killing unarmed prisoners under such circumstances. And it is going to be difficult for the authorities to place knives in the dead men's pockets after their clear statement that the men had no weapons.

Reports indicate that state officials are probing the affair. No white-wash of the facts underlying the killings can for a moment, be indulged. State officials are under every obligation to demand to know every angle of the case and to direct a prompt dismissal of every person responsible in any way for the slaughter of these men. The investigation must not stop short of all of the facts, even if it means abolishing the camp itself. For law-abiding, sane-minded Americans could not expect any more daring acts of barbarism from a German concentration camp. Sun. 7-13-47

Prison Slaughter Probe Opens Today

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

By MARION E. JACKSON

New angles cropped up Tuesday in the evidence that will confront a Glynn County Grand Jury which today will begin investigating the sadistic slaughter of seven Negro prisoners last week near Brunswick, Ga. Wed. 7-16-47

One of the developments is alleged to center around the transfer of prisoners from a 'liberal' prison at Folkston, Ga. to Brunswick, where the victims became incensed over the denial of privileges which they formerly had enjoyed at Folkston.

Assistant Director of Corrections J. B. Hatchet, Tuesday revealed that permission to smoke during working hours had been revoked immediately after the prisoners were transferred to Brunswick, and that much bitterness had resulted over the action.

Permission to smoke was restricted to 15 minutes in the morning and during a two-hour lunch period with an additional 15 minutes in the afternoon.

RESENT CHARGES

Bitter resentment greeted these changes in rules. Added to this some grievance resulted in assigning men to work where high waters endangered their safety. Continued grumbling is reported to have caused the guards to summon Warden W. G. Worthy to the scene and he is understood to have given the men a choice of working in less dangerous tasks nearby, although the water still covered their shoes.

Assistant Director Hatchett said reports indicate that even this did not stop the prisoners from grumbling about working conditions and as a result, Warden Hatcher gave the prisoners a choice of continuing work or returning to camp. A canvass of the men resulted in 27 voting not to return to work and 13 agreeing to stay on the job.

The prisoners voting against working under existing conditions were herded back to camp. Wed. 7-16-47

A quintet believed to have been Henry Manson, Willie Wright, Jonas Smith, Edward Neal and George Patterson continued their beefs after returning to camp and as a result, Glynn County Police were summoned The tenseness between prisoners and warden deepened. As a result additional deputies were called to the scene.

Warden Worthy considered consigning the quintet to 'solitary confinement but rejected this move when deputies pointed out that there was insufficient room for that many prisoners in the dungeon.

GOES AFTER BELL

Warden Worthy, after this is alleged to have grabbed a pick handle and started in the camp house after Bell, Believing that the prisoners would overpower him, he is reported to have cocked his pistol and entered the house shooting Bell whom he labeled as 'dangerous' on entering.

Panic broke out and the prisoners are believed to have fled the site hoping to escape Warden Worthy's bullets. The guards opened murderous fire on the excited men it was reported.

The Board of Corrections revealed Tuesday the next of kin of the Atlanta victims: Wed. 7-16-47

Willie Wright, 25, burglary and larceny of automobile, 12-15 years and 3-3 years. Next of kin: Ada Allen 25A, Memorial Drive, Atlanta, Ga. He is reported as having escaped 6 times.

Jonas Smith, 29 burglary, 2 counts, 12-20 years, 3-3 years. Next of kin: Emma Jackson, 102 Chappel Street, Atlanta.

Edward Neal, 22, robbery, next of kin, Rev. B. S. Neal 619 Larkin St Atlanta, escaped once.

George Patterson, 30, 3-7 years on robbery charge. Paroled. Convicted of Misdemeanor. Parole revoked. Next of kin; Beatrice Patterson, wife, 188 Gilmore Street, later moved to 167 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta

Henry Manson, Colquitt, Ga. 20 year sentence for burglary. Escaped twice previously. Chronic violater of prison rules.

Willie Frank Chambers, 35, Macon Ga. died Monday night on the eve of an investigation by a Grand Jury Wednesday, July 16th at Brunswick Ga. His next of kin is Rosa Mae Orr, 305 Dinion Street, Macon, Ga. He is under 40 to 40 years sentence on 4 counts of burglary.

No Verdict Returned In Georgia Massacre Of Seven Prisoners

The Informer Houston, Texas

Sat. 7-19-47

A coroner's jury, which investi---A coroner's jury, which investigated the massacre of seven chaingang prisoners at the Glynn County prison camp at Anguilla Georgia, twelve miles from here, adjourned last Saturday without returning a verdict.

As the verdict of the coroner's jury was witheld, Judge Gordon Knox of Glynn Superior Court called the grand jury to convene Wednesday to investigate the shooting. The verdict of the coroner's jury will be withheld until after the grand jury investigation.

The coroner's investigation was conducted at the prison camp by Coroner J. D. Baldwin, 80, and was attended by five members of the Brunswick branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Sat. 7-19-47

Seven prisoners were killed and six others wounded by a fusillade from the guns of prison guards at the Glynn County prison camp last Saturday. Five were killed instantly. Two others died later in a hospital. Three of the convicts were killed as they scrambled under a house adjoining the stockade Another was hit as he scrambled over the wire enclosure around the stockade and fell dead on the other side. Another was dropped in his tracks. Six were wounded.

Says Action Of Slayers "Justifiable"

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

14c

Subsequent Action By Corrections Board Doubtful

Sat. 7-19-47

BRUNSWICK, Ga.— A Glynn County Grand Jury Friday completely exonerated Warden W. G. Worthy and five guards here for the notorious 'prison massacre' of eight Negro convicts after the 23 members of the jury could find no evidence that Warden Worthy had plotted the men's death by shouting "Let'em have it" as the prisoners fled in panic from his drawn gun.

The verdict came as a sequel to the brutal slaying of seven convicts which had brought national censure against the warden and guards who allegedly mowed the men down as they attempted to flee the prison camp near Brunswick.

The 23-Member Grand Jury returned a presentment which said evidence showed "the warden and guards were justified in their action under the circumstances."

Warden Worthy said the break attempt and the volleys from the officers' guns followed an attempt of one of the convicts, Willie E. Bell, to charge and disarm him.

The jurors questioned more than 50 persons, including prisoners, county police and guards, as well as the warden.

They covered during the three-day period of investigation the whole area surrounding the Glynn County horror camp and talked with most of the witnesses who viewed the mass slaying. Sat. 7-19-47

Although the jury had deliberated three days, the verdict was not unexpected, yet early reaction to the jury's findings stunned some observers who had expected the group to condem the method of handling the cnvicts prior to the camp slayings.

Earlier at a corner's hearing, camp guards had admitted that they had threatened the prisoners with punishment in the outlawed "hot box" where prisoners are crowded into an unventilated sheet metal shed under a broiling sun.

Prisoners had testified that Worthy was drunk, and he whipped out his revolver and ordered Willie H. Bell, known as "Pee Wee" to step out of the crowd. When Bell refused to do so, Worthy is reported to have opened fire and the bunched prisoners ran.

The Georgia Board of Corrections had indicated that they would take no action if the court failed to act. Whether or not the board would reconsider its decision is doubtful. Ass't Director J. B. Hatcher of the Board of Corrections had taken the same veiw of the board's course in the case. ?

Members of the Citizens Board are Wiley Moore, Louis Blalock, Ben Lambert, Turner Price and Rev. L. M. Twiggs of Emory University.

14c 1947

Negroes by Policemen (Georgia)

Avows Sweeping Probe Into Brunswick Massacre

By MARION E. JACKSON

The State Board of Corrections meeting Monday at the State Capitol voted to discontinue all prison camps operated by the State Highway Board and promised to launch a full scale investigation into the brutal slaying of eight Negro convicts near Brunswick, Ga. last June 11. Atlanta Daily

The action came after members of the Board had read a petition presented by Isadore Pittman, president of the United Fur and Leather Workers-CIO, bearing the names of 10,000 Massachusetts and New Hampshire cannery workers, deploring the slaying of the convicts. The Board also acknowledged Citizens telegrams from various Brunswick organization among them were the Good Citizens Club, Elks Club, American Legion, Young Men's Business Club, NAACP, Progressive Citizens Democratic Club, and the Negro Chamber of Commerce.

Tues. 8/12/47

Testifying before the Board, Sam L. Levine, County Commisioner of Glynn County told the Board of Corrections that he had financed his trip to Atlanta 'out of my own pockets.'

Commissioner Levine told the Board, "I went in there the night of the slaying. The condition the guards were in that night caused my wife to make me leave I am in Atlanta on my own initiative to protest the keeping of that camp in Brunswick."

STAIN ON GEORGIA

He labeld the camp, "a stain on the state of Georgia." He deplored the fact that the board even considered letting, "ignorant, incapable guards continue to menace folks lives."

Tues. 8/12/47

Levine quoted one member of the Grand Jury as saying, "They ought to have killed every dam n--- out there." The Grand Jury according to Levine never held the warden nor his guards on technical charges as required by Georgia law. The jury never acted on 8 warrants presented in the case and overruled the foreman of the body who opposed their findings.

Levine, declared that "Worthy was drinking. He was drunk. The guards were drunk. I can get proof that the guards were not in their right mind when the killing took place. These killings have been whitewashed from bottom to top. The majority of people are up in the air about the incident.

ORDERS CAMP CLOSED

The Board of Corrections recommended the immediate removal of the 72 Negro prisoners from Brunswick. The group ordered Camp 18 closed and the prisoners distributed among the county camps. The white prison camp which housed 48 prisoners was closed at the same time.

Tues. 8/12/47

Mrs. Louise Blalock motioned that the Brunswick prison camp be closed. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Then she asked the group to launch a full scale investigation into the affair and make a public report of their findings in September. Members agreed to visit Brunswick in the meantime for an on-the-spot investigation. The Board instruction Correction Board Director, C. A. Williams to distribute the prisoners from camp to camp throughout the state and a similar suggestion be carried out in regards to the white prison camp operated by the State Highway Department.

GEORGIA NEGRO SLAIN BY SHERIFF IN FIGHT

Tues. 7-15-47

The N.Y. Times N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, July 14—The slaying of a 65-year-old Negro as he allegedly sought to prevent the arrest of his 17-year-old son was announced today by Sheriff H. F. Herrington at Georgetown as authorities pressed investigations into the killing of seven Negro convict prisoners at Brunswick Friday.

Sheriff Herrington reported that he shot Ball Smith in a gun battle Saturday night with a group of Negroes at the Smith farmhouse near Georgetown. He said that he had a warrant for T. D. Smith accusing him of assault with intent to murder in the shooting of another Negro.

The sheriff was treated by a Georgetown doctor for a glancing bullet wound on the side of the head and a broken rib.

A grand jury investigation was scheduled to open Wednesday in the killings at Brunswick in a reported mass escape attempt at an all-Negro prison camp. 7-15-47

J. B. Hatchett, assistant director of the State Department of Corrections, said today his investigations of the shootings had led him to the conclusion that Warden W. C. Worthy was not drunk and had not been drinking, as charged by a Negro convict at a coroner's jury investigation Saturday.

Death in the South

New York N.Y.

WHEN Warden H. G. Worthy and the camp guards at the Anguilla State Prison near Brunswick, Georgia, mowed down a gang of Negro prisoners who were allegedly attempting a mass escape, Glynn County police chief Russell Henderson stood by in silent amazement. After the shooting had stopped, leaving 17 dead and wounded convicts strewn about the prison yard, Henderson burst out that the gunning had been completely uncalled for. New Republic

But a special grand jury investigating the deaths of eight prisoners and the wounding of nine others came to a different conclusion last week. Despite the convicts' testimony that the warden had been drunk, the jury exonerated Worthy, accepting his explanation that the Negroes had been trying a break. Scant attention was given the prisoners' claim that they had been shot while running for protection (some were killed as they tried to crawl under the prison bunkhouse). When the jury did not ask county commissioner Sam Levine to testify, he sent an angry telegram to the *NR* condemning the shootings as "outright murder" (see right). Mon. 7-28-47

The grand jury wound up its deliberations by recommending that Georgia reinstate the leg chains and striped suits for convicts which were abolished by former Governor Ellis Arnall in 1943.

GEORGIA JURY CLEARS SLAYERS OF 8 FELONS

New York Times

BRUNSWICK, Ga., July 18 (AP)—A Superior Court grand jury today exonerated Warden H. G. Worthy and five guards in the slaying of eight Negro convicts in a mass escape attempt at a highway prison camp here a week ago.

The twenty-three-member grand jury returned a special presentment which said evidence "showed the warden and guards were justified in their action under the circumstances." New York, N.Y.

The warden and guards opened fire with shotguns when twenty-seven Negroes, who had balked at road work, attempted to flee the prison camp. Five were killed instantly and three died later in a hospital. Five others were wounded. Sun. 7-20-47

Warden Worthy said the break attempt and the volleys from the officers' guns followed an attempt of one of the convicts, Willie E. Bell, to charge and disarm him. The warden shot Bell in the leg.

At a coroner's inquest, Bell testified that Warden Worthy was "half drunk" and "wanted to kill me."

The grand jury presentment said the investigation found no evidence to support the charge that the warden had been drinking.

The jury said the prisoners assigned to the camp in southeast Georgia "were the most unruly and undisciplined in the state."

GEORGIA PRISON

Life Mag. Chicago, Ill.

Sirs:

My hat is off to you for your relentless fight against the race hate which exists in the South today. Scenes such as you have depicted in your Picture of the Week of the Georgia prison (LIFE, July 21) would not come to us except through impartial national publications.

My local newspaper, the Houston *Chronicle*, has one of the largest circulations in Texas. Yet, like most Southern newspapers, it plays up the Negro as a rapist and a murderer, displaying his crimes and alleged crimes in bold front-page type, while crimes perpetrated against the colored people or worth-while achievements by this group are either omitted altogether or told about in small back-sheet type.

Incidents such as this Georgia massacre are made possible by the deliberate nurturing and fanning into flame of any and all sparks of race hate on the part of our dailies. It is no wonder that so many of the white population look upon the Negro as a menace to society rather than a citizen with human rights. Mon 8-11-47

I am a Negro and the mother of two small boys who do not know as yet that they are anything more—or less—than normal American children. I shudder to think of their future in this, our southland, where hostility toward my people seems to be on the increase rather than on the decline.

MRS. B. W. RANSOM

Houston, Texas

Sirs:

Regarding your story on the prison camp, here are a few facts you omitted:

1) These prisoners had given enough previous trouble that day to warrant the calling of police from nearby Brunswick.

2) Previous escape records of the five who were killed instantly are as follows: Jonah Smith, five; Henry Manson, three; Willie Wright, one; James Smith, two. The fifth record, George Patterson's, was not listed.

3) Major C. A. Williams, head of the state department of prisons, held an immediate investigation in which the warden and guards were exonerated.

FIELDING D. WHIPPLE

Athens, Ga. Mon. 8-11-47

● Another fact: the jury which exonerated the warden and guards went on record that the chain gang is the only proper way to handle Negro prisoners.—ED.

"Leave Brunswick Camp Open And I Will Leave Ga.," Says Levine

"If you permit the Brunswick Prison Camp to remain in Glynn County I will leave Georgia, but before I do I'll go on the radio all over Georgia because I will not tolerate that camp to remain in Glynn County" was highlight of a speech made by Sam A. Levine, Commissioner of Roads and Revenue, to the Georgia State Board of Corrections, yesterday. Atlanta Daily World

Levine told the Board that "The camp is in politics, the foodstuffs are in politics, the drugs are in politics and the whole function of the camp is in politics--that is the main trouble today." Atlanta, Ga.

"The prisoners," said Levine should have been segregated in Ed Rivers. $3,000.00 prison. Unless Warden Worthy and his guards leave Brunswick at once, I will resign my post as commissioner and leave Georgia. The warden and the guards are incapable, illiterates who are entirely incapable of guarding or managing anything." Tues. 8/12/47

Commenting on the alleged escape attempt Levine stated" You can't say these men attempted to escape. I went to the camp after the shooting. I saw where two had run in the bullpen. One was wedged under the house. Someone placed that mans body on the fence. The County police testified that they did not see anyone attempt to escape. All of that testimony was cut and dried."

He called on the Board to "Let the world know that we have an administration of intelligent people here. I have had more than 500 telephone calls asking me not to let this investigation die. More than 500 persons have called me personally. We can operate our roads with free labor. The state should do the same. I am not talking for the commissioners (of my county) but as a resident, taxpayer, and citizen. I will not tolerate that camp to remain in Brunswick." Tues. 8/12/47

"The camp (Brunswick) was fixed up so that felonists, rapists and murderers would not escape. Those men did not try."

Prisoners Stage Strike Against Camp Closing

The Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Ga. **By JOHN COURIC** Fri-8-15-47

Forty-five prisoners went on a sit-down strike at the State Highway Prison Camp in Charlton County Thursday morning when officials sought to close the camp and transfer its inmates to Tattnall State Prison.

The prisoners, protesting closing of a camp they like, refused to leave their barracks until granted an interview with the Director or Assistant Director of the State Department of Corrections or a member of the Board of Corrections.

When told of their demands, Director C. A. Williams rushed his assistant, J. B. Hatchett, from Atlanta, and declared no force would be used against the prisoners. Fri-8-15-47

In addition, Williams called a special meeting of the Board of Corrections for 11 a. m. today at the State Capitol. He explained he could call the meeting because Board Chairman Wiley Moore is out of the State. Williams has this authority in Moore's absence.

The inmates already had protested, in telegrams to Acting Gov. Thompson and the Board, against closing of the camp, ordered abolished last Monday. The prisoners asked to be allowed to serve out their sentences at the camp and praised conditions there.

The Board voted to close the Charlton Camp for white prisoners and the Glynn Camp for Negroes, thus closing the last of the road camps operated by the State Highway Department.

The Negroes were to be distributed among County work camps and the white prisoners returned to Reidsville.

The action followed the slaying of eight Negroes in Glynn County in what guards called an escape attempt.

Williams said Warden W. N. McHan, Jr., notified him by telephone that the Charlton inmates refused to be loaded on trucks and transported to the State Prison at Reidsville.

Since the camp is run by the State Highway Department, employees of that Agency were to make the transfer. Williams said no Correction Department officials were on hand when the strike began.

R. E. Stephenson, bookkeeper at the camp, told The Constitution by telephone Thursday afternoon that the inmates had been in their barracks all day.

"They aren't mad and they aren't trying to buck authority," Stephenson said, "but they feel they have a right to be heard before being transferred."

When he received the telegram of protest, Acting Gov. Thompson pointed out that Georgia's penal system is operated by the Board of Corrections, set up under the State Constitution. He said any reconsideration of the closing order would be a matter for the Board.

Williams declared he could not delay closing the camp, since he was following orders of the Board.

Thursday afternoon, almost all of the Negroes had been transferred from the Glynn Camp, Williams said. Fri 8-15-47

The Folkston American Legion Post protested the closing of the Charlton camp. In Brunswick, various organizations, some for Negroes and some for whites, asked that the Board close the Glynn Camp. These organizations included the Brunswick Chapter for the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People, the local American Legion Post, the Elks, Young Men's Civic Club, Good Citizens Club and others.

BLAMES NEW PRISONERS

Times

Ex-Georgia Warden Says They Caused Affray Fatal to 8

New York, N.Y.

Sat. 11-1-47

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Oct. 31 (AP)—Former Warden H. G. Worthy today blamed a disturbance leading to the slaying of eight Negro convicts last July 11 on the transfer of unruly prisoners to his camp from another establishment at Folkston, Ga.

Worthy and four former guards are on trial charged with violating the civil rights of the Negroes. He told a Federal jury that addition of the new men brought the total at his camp to seventy-eight Negroes. Sat. 11-1-47

Some of the new men, he declared, said they planned to break up the camp. Willie Bell, alleged ringleader who was already at Worthy's camp, was quoted by the warden as saying, "We've got our buddies here now." Times

Worthy repeated accounts given by other defense witnesses of the actual start of the shooting. All said it began after Bell lunged at the warden while prisoners who refused to continue road work were assembled at the camp. New York

The warden denied that he was drunk or had been drinking as charged by Bell. He said the prisoners were not forced to work in snake-infested ditches as they claimed.

CORONER'S JURY JUSTIFIES GEORGIA WARDEN IN MASSACRE

The Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Okla

Accept Story Told About Attempt of Convicts to Disarm Him

Sat-8-2-47

DISMISS STORY ABOUT DRUNKNESS

BURNSWICK, Ga. — (ANP) — Declaring that the evidence "showed the warden and guards were justified in their action under the circumstances," a 23-member grand jury in superior court Saturday exonerated Warden H. G. Worthy and five guards in the slaying of eight Negro convicts who allegedly attempted a mass escape from a highway prison camp.

Worthy and his guards opened fire with shotguns on 27 Negroes, who were said to have attempted to flee the camp after having balked at road work. Five prisoners were killed instantly, three died later in a hospital, and five others were wounded. Sat. 8-2-47

In his testimony before the grand jury, Worthy said the shooting came when one of the convicts, Willie E. Bell, started to charge and disarm him. The warden shot Bell in the leg.

However, Bell testified that the warden was "half drunk" and "wanted to kill me."

The jury, after questioning 30 witnesses, including county police and other convicts, said no evidence could be found to support the charge that Worthy had been drinking. It's reported here that prisoners in the camp in southwest Georgia "were the most unruly and undisciplined in the state," and quoted one prisoner as saying when he was transferred here that "we want to get away, one way or another." Sat-8-2-47

The report further stated that guards were authorized by law to prevent any break or escape by using gunfire and they were authorized "to take such steps as are necessary to maintain order."

Investigators from the local branch of the NAACP, however, state that their findings differ considerably from the popular report about the affair. They report that there had been no sit-down strike of prisoners nor any attempt at a mass escape as originally published, nor was there any attack on Warden Worthy.

The account as given by the NAACP investigators follows:

"The men had simply refused to go into the rattle-snake infested swamp waters without boots. They demanded a meeting with the warden where they could explain their objections, but this demand was refused by armed guards who were in charge of the work gang. When the men refused to enter the swamp, they were told to sit in the road while one of the guards returned to the camp to report the situation to the warden. Sat. 8-2-47

"Only two guards remained with the men who were perfectly aware of the fact that there were 15 heavily armed guards back at the camp. It was pointed out to the investigators by one of the prisoners that, if an escape had been contemplated, it would have been made more feasible with only two guards over them than later when they'd been returned to camp in trucks, under the guns of 17 guards. The Black Dispatch

"The trucks carrying the prisoners back to camp was followed by the warden, who requested the county police, who were met on the road, to follow the caravan.

"The Negro prisoners were unloaded in front of the barracks where the warden ordered five prisoners to 'step out.' This the men refused to do when it was obvious to the tightly packed group that the warden was reeling drunk. The warden then ordered 'Pee Wee' Willie Bell to step out 'because I'm going to kill you.' When Bell refused this order, the warden sent for some pick handles. Sat. 8-2-47

"A few minutes later, the intoxicated warden spoke to county police chief Henderson, who got into his car and drove to Brunswick, 16 miles away, returning with a sub-machine gun. During all this time the prisoners made no attempt to escape.

"When the police chief returned with the machine gun, the warden reeled into the packed prisoners 'holding his pistol with both hands' to get Pee Wee. A few moments later the shooting began. The survivors insisted that the police took part in the shooting. This has been denied by the police. One investigator was certain that the machine gun had been used against the helpless prisoners." The Black Dispatch

C. M. Moore, president of the local NAACP, declared, "we are not upholding wilfull law violators, but so many rumors have been circulated since this unfortunate affair, we feel that a full sifting of the incident should be made." Sat-8-2-47

Warden Yelled 'Let 'Em Have It,' Convict Says as Seven Are Slain

Sun 7/13/47

Constitution

BRUNSWICK, Ga., July 12—(AP) A Negro convict told a coroner's jury Saturday that Warden W. G. Worthy opened fire with a pistol and yelled to guards "let 'em have it" as 27 prisoners raced for a high wire fence in an attempted escape Friday.

Another convict testified the Warden was "half drunk" and "wanted to kill me."

Five convicts in the all-Negro State Highway Road Camp near here died instantly in the blast of pistol and shotgun fire. Two others died later in a hospital. Six were wounded.

Warden Worthy and County Chief of Police Russell B. Henderson both denied the Warden had been drinking and Worthy testified: Atlanta, Ga.

"I did not say 'let 'em have it,' when they run they (the guards) knew to let 'em have it. Those are my orders."

The investigation, conducted at the prison camp by 80-year-old Coroner J. D. Baldwin and attended by five Negro members of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, adjourned without a verdict.

Baldwin said it would be withheld until after the Glynn Superior Court Grand Jury meets here next Wednesday to investigate the shooting.

Willie H. Bell, described by Warden Worthy as the ringleader of the massed break, testified the Warden asked him to step away from the group of convicts lined up in the prison yard.

He said he refused "because I knew he wanted to kill me." Bell also said Warden Worthy was "half drunk."

The Warden said he shot Bell in the leg when the convict charged him and tried to take his pistol.

Charles Veal, an Atlanta convict, also said the Warden was drinking, and declared he heard the Warden say to Willie Bell:

"Come out, Peewee, I want to kill you." Sun. 7/13/47

Howard Adams, an Atlanta convict, told the jury the Warden began shooting with his pistol, and yelled to the other guards "let 'em have it."

The coroner asked Remmer Bazemore, a guard if there wasn't time to yell "halt" to the fleeing prisoners.

"No, there wasn't time," more said. "They were all running."

Guy McNabb, who said he shot a Negro going over the wire fence, declared that "I was trying to hit him in the legs."

J. L. Holmes, another guard, said Warden Worthy "talked and pleaded an hour or more trying to get the prisoners to quiet down."

Crowd Sees Peace Officers Slay Fleeing Prisoner

Atlanta, Ga.
Daily World
14c

SILVIS, Ill. —(ANP —A fleeing Negro prisoner was slain here Friday by peace officers before an estimated 200 persons. Wed. 7-2-47

Last Wednesday, 63-year-old Silkie Scott surrendered to local authorities on the belief that he was wanted by the FBI and was lodged in the Silvis city jail. Investigation disclosed that Scott was not wanted, Police Chief Leo Linaberry said, and he was to be removed to the Rock Island county jail at Rock Island on a vagrancy charge.

But the 215-pound prisoner, who stood six feet three inches, refused to leave his cell, Linaberry said, and a call was made to the sheriff's office for reinforcements. Chief Deputy Wm. Koster and Deputies Jas. Gartelos and Larry Heald responded, but Scott attacked them with a broken milk bottle and broomstick, Linaberry reported. Wed. 7-2-47

They withdrew and fired eight tear gas shells into Scott's cell, then waited 10 minutes. The prisoner was silent. The officers returned and reentered Scotts' cell. He struggled with them, seized Koster's spent tear gas gun and ran outside.

Bleeding from head wounds receiv ed in the struggle, he dashed past a crowd and continued to run. The officers pursued, firing into the air Gartelos took aim and fired his .38 service pistol at the fleeling prisoner as he was nearly two blocks away. Scott fell dead from a bullet in his heart.

Crowd Sees Peace Officers Murder Fleeing Prisoner

Sat - 7-12-47
14c
The Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

SILVIS, Ill. — (ANP) — A fleeing Negro prisoner was slain here Friday by peace officers before an estimated 200 persons.

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Man Who Surrenders Slain By Law Officer

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

SILVIS, Ill. — (NNPA)— A colored man who had voluntarily surrendered to police, and against whom a charge of vagrancy was about to be made, was shot and killed by police here last Friday as he fled from the police station.

According to Police Chief Leo Linaberry, Silkie Scott walked into police headquarters and said he was wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and gave his name as Silkie Smith. Sat. 7-19-47

Chief Linaberry said when investigation showed that Scott was not wanted by the FBI it was decided to remove him to the Rock Island County jail at Rock Island and charge him with vagrancy.

Scott, however, who weighed 215 pounds and was six feet three inches tall, is reported to have refused to leave the cell in police headquarters and after police and three deputies from the sheriff's office were unable to get him out, tear gas shells were thrown into the window of his cell.

When four officers entered the cell again after a wait of 10 minutes Scott is alleged to have seized a spent tear gas gun from one of them and run outside followed by Chief Linaberry and the three deputy sheriffs. Sat. 7-19-47

As Scott fled, one of the deputies, James Gartelos, fired into the air but Scott continued to run Gartelos then fired again and Scott, two blocks away, fell dead with a bullet through his heart.

A crowd of about 200 persons witnessed the shooting.

Asks Probe Of Slaying By Police

The Call
Kansas City, Mo.
Fri. 7-11-47

Illinois N.A.A.C.P. Seeks Investigation Of Silkie Scott Death

14c

SILVIS, Ill.—A grand jury investigation of the killing of Silkie Scott by a sheriff's deputy here June 27 was requested Saturday, July 5, by the Tri-City Illinois chapter of the NAACP.

Scott, who was said to be demented, was shot and killed by Deputy Sheriff James Gartelos as he fled from the jail.

According to Police Chief Lee Linaberry, Silkie Scott walked into police headquarters and said he was wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and gave his name as Silkie Smith.

Chief Linaberry said when investigation showed that Scott was not wanted by the FBI it was decided to remove him to the Rock Island County jail at Rock Island and charge him with vagrancy.

Scott, however, who weighed 215 pounds and was six feet three inches tall, is reported to have refused to leave the cell in police headquarters and after police and three deputies from the sheriff's office were unable to get him out, tear gas shells were thrown into the window of his cell.

When four officers entered the cell again after a wait of ten minutes Scott is alleged to have seized a spent tear gas gun from one of them and run outside followed by Chief Linaberry and the three deputy sheriffs Fri. 7-11-47

As Scott fled, one of the deputies, James Gartelos, fired into the air but Scott continued to run. Gartelos then fired again and Scott, two blocks away, fell dead with a bullet through his heart.

A crowd of about 200 witnessed the shooting.

The NAACP branch charges that the "actions of the officers involved, which resulted in the death of an insane and helpless individual, was a type of mob lynching or 'legal lynching.'

The branch demanded the "indictment, arrest and punishment of any and all law enforcement officials of Rock Island county found guilty of misconduct, carelessness, cruel and inhuman treatment of an individual, violence, murder or manslaughter in connection with alleged facts and evidence stated and produced" in connection with the case.

14c 1947 Negroes by Policemen (Kentucky)

Trigger-Happy Cop Kills Unconscious Man In Kentucky

LOUISVILLE — ANP) — More southern justice occurred last week when an unconscious Negro was shot five times by trigger happy police here. Although there were three witnesses to the brutal slaughter the police officers are free today and probably will remain free, the police chief here asserted.

Daily World
Atlanta Ga
9-Sept-47

The incident occurred Tuesday when George Edward Kelly came into a confectionary to get his nightly milk shake. He played his favorite record,a religious selection, Lord I've Tried," and then sat down and began drinking his milk shake. Two police officers came in and accused Kelly of causing a disturbance. Kelly denied this as did Dorris Edward Smith, the proprietor of the store. The police insisted that Kelly was causing a disturbance, however, and one of them started for a pistol.

Kelly, in an effort to defend himself, knocked the gun from the cop's hand. The other attacked Kelly from behind striking him four times with his nightstick, according to Smith. With Kelly then knocked out, one of the officers, John R. Womack, began pumping five slugs into Kelly's limp body.

NAACP officials here are working in an attempt to have Womack indicted. The shooting was necessary, declared the chief.

Kelly's father and brother were among the witnesses of the murder. One bystander objected and was promptly carted away to jail and a $20 fine slapped on him. He was also threatened with violence, he reported, but it never came off.

A coroner's hearing in the case has been set for Sept. 19 and a second hearing in police court has been set for Sept. 29.

Daily World
Atlanta Ga
Daily World
9-21-47
Atlanta, Ga.

Bowling Green Suspect Killed By Policeman

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Special to The Courier-Journal.

Bowling Green, Ky., Oct. 8.—William Edward Simpson, 23-year-old Negro, was wounded fatally about 10:30 p.m. yesterday by a Bowling Green policeman who was investigating an attempted break-in at the Swift & Co. produce house at 620 College.

Police Chief Murrell Waddle reported the shooting and said the Negro was killed when Patrolman Edward Ashlock fired three shots to halt a man fleeing from the scene of the attempted break-in.

Warren County Coroner Chester Basham said one of the shots struck Simpson in the back and penetrated to a point near his heart. The coroner returned a verdict of "death due to pistol wounds received from the hands of Edward Ashlock." 10-9-47

Commonwealth's Attorney R. D. Willock said the investigation is continuing and that Ashlock is to appear before the January grand jury. Thur.

Slaying Charge Is Filed Away Against Louisville Patrolman

Courier-Journal

A manslaughter charge against City Patrolman John R. Womack, 29, of 1201 Brashear Drive, was filed away in Police Court yesterday. He had been held in the fatal shooting September 2 of George E. Kelley, 30, Negro, 1234 ane, in a restaurant at 1057 S. 12th. Louisville, Ky.

Prosecutor Foster DeWees told Judge Homer C. McLellen a coroner's jury previously held the shooting justifiable. Police said Kelley attempted to shoot the officer before Womack fired three shots. Counsel for Kelley's family said four witnesses would testify the victim was unconscious when he was shot. Fri 10-10-47

When counsel protested the dismissal of the charge without a hearing, DeWees said Police Court usually respects the verdict of coroner's juries. You can always present the case to a grand jury." 10-10-~~19~~47

Assault and battery charges against two City policemen, Marvin Almon and Charles Booth, were dismissed by Magistrate Herman Jorris yesterday. The charges were brought by C. Eubank Tucker, Negro attorney, who said the officers struck him at the time of his arrest in Police Court three weeks ago. Almon and Booth said they held Tucker's arms when he resisted arrest. Tucker previously was fined $20 in Police Court for his part in the disorder.

14c 1947

Negroes by Policemen (Mississippi)

Officers Shoot Down Suspect

The Afro American
Baltimore 8-9-47

Slaying Follows Warning by Mob

PRENTISS, Miss. — Shot and killed on the spot where he was accused of criminally assaulting a white expectant mother, Versie Johnson, 35, becomes another victim whose name is added to the fast-growing list of those lynched in Mississippi.

A mob had gathered at the jail shortly after Johnson was arrested Friday afternoon, and had given Sheriff G. O. Berry "until 8 o'clock tonight to get a confession," Miss Viginia Hartzon, sheriff's clerk, revealed. Sat-8-9-47

Sheriff Berry, State Highway Patrolman J. S. Puckett and a policeman named Hopkins took the suspect to the scene of the crime after the mob's threat, she disclosed.

The clerk then said that Johnson was "telling how he did it and got up behind Patrolman Puckett and grabbed him around the waist and tried to get his gun." One of the other "law enforcement" officers shot him, she declared.

However, it was learned that bullets from three different guns were found in the man's body, pointing with certainty to the fact that Johnson had been the victim of an illegal execution. Sat-8-9-47

The name of the white woman who "cried rape" was not disclosed by Sheriff Berry's clerk to newspapermen, but she is said to have been an expectant mother.

The clerk related that the woman said she had offered her attacker all the money she had in the house not to molest her, but that she had been attacked and her money taken also by the assailant before he fled.

Report Mob Forming Before Police Slew Rape Suspect

Atlanta Ga. 8/9/47

Atlanta Daily World

PRENTISS, Miss — (ANP) — A lynch mob was reported to be forming when police shot a 23-year-old Negro suspect to death here Friday near the scene where he allegedly raped a white woman.

Atlanta Daily World

According to Virginia Hartzog, Sheriff G. O. Berry's clerk, members of the mob that gathered outside the jail after Versie Johnson was arrested gave an ultimatum to the sheriff to get Johnson's confession by 8 p. m. The white woman identified Johnson in a group of eight Negroes seized near her home, Berry said.

Atlanta Ga.

Johnson was escorted to the scene of the alleged rape by Berry, and State Highway Patrolmen J. S. Puckett and Andy Hopkins. The prisoner pointed to the spot where he attacked the woman, Berry said then suddenly grabbed Patrolman Puckett around the waist with one hand and reached for the patrolman's service revolver with the other.

8/9/47 Sat.

Puckett twisted himself loose, but nearly fell the sheriff said, then all three officers fired on Johnson, hitting him in the neck, chest and head.

8/9/47

The white woman charged that Johnson came to her home that morning and asked for a match. After she gave him the match, Johnson seized her by the throat, she said, and menaced her with an iron. She was dragged from her home [illegible] the edge of her yard, she told Berry and raped after screaming and offering Johnson $10.

She accused her attacker of forcing her to go to a small building where he drew a rude cross of its side and forced her to place her hand over the cross, with a promise "not to tell any one about this"

Aug.

When a report of the case reached the public, about 75 people gathered outside the jail where Johnson was imprisoned. Berry denied his clerk's remarks about the crowd giving him an ultimatum to obtain a confession.

14c 1947

Negroes By Policemen (Missouri)

Moves To Take 'Rug' Slaying Before St. Louis Grand Jury

(14c) N by Police (Mo.)

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

ST. LOUIS—Despite the verdict of justifiable homicide given by a coroner's jury here Tuesday evenig, Asst. Circuit Atty. William J. Geekie has said he will take to the grand jury the fatal shooting of Henry Black, father of seven children, by Patrolman Henry Reed early Sunday morning.

Black was shot in the back of the head in an alley in the rear of 2008 Cass ave., by Reed, a white officer, who accosted him while carrying a rug given him for junk by a neighbor. Sat. 10-25-47

Showing intense interest in the case is the St. Louis branch of the NAACP and the St. Louis Civil Liberties Union.

The six-man coroner's jury heard a day of testimony before a court crowded with indignant citizens.

Reed Testifies

Reed testified he stopped Black, sole supporter of his family, as he came out of an alley carrying the tattered rug on his shoulder, about 2:30 a.m. He said he identified himself as Fred Johnson and said he won the rug in a dice game at 1414½ N. 21st st.

The officer and Black went to the address, home of Fred Dobbins, who identified him as Black, but denied knowledge of the dice game. It was also revealed that Officer Reed refused to allow Black to talk or explain the presence of the rug.

The rug was later identified by Dobbins as having given to both men by a woman as junk in return for hauling some furniture the previous day.

Denies Theft Charge

Dobbins testified that Black told Reed as the two left his home, "White folks, I ain't stole no rug. This rug ain't stole."

"It was shortly after the two left Dobbins that Reed said Black struck him with the 9x12 rug and started to flee. Reed said he fired two shots in the air then "leveled at him."

He later returned and took Dobbins to the station with him where Dobbins testified he heard a conversation between the teletype boy and Reed about the original report of the killing. Dobbins said the boy said "Why did you say the man was an unidentified burglar when you had his name and address all the time?" 10-25-47

'NOT QUIET ENOUGH'
COP SHOOTS DOWN VET

September 12, 1947

New York, Sep 11th--

Immediate prosecution of two white policemen in Farmville, N.C. was demanded of the Department of Justice today by the NAACP, in forwarding to Attorney General Tom Clark the results of an investigation by its representatives into the killing of Meb Vines, Jr., an honorably discharged veteran early in the morning of August 17th.

9-12-47

As Vines and some other young Negroes approached a store and barbecue stand, Vines was warned to be quiet because "the law is outside." When young Vines said he didn't care about the law, witnesses said he was approached by policeman Gregory who hit him and knocked him to the floor. Vines, who had just returned to his home town after staying in New York since his discharge from the Army, rose from the floor and struck Gregory in the face with his fist. Immediately, thereafter, despite the fact that Vines was unarmed and that other Negroes in the store offered to help arrest him, he was killed by many shots pumped into his body. La. NAACP Chief Demands

Charging that this was a clar cut case of the officers undertaking to administer kangaroo "justice" through the exercise of their power as policemen, without charging their victim with any crime, or attempting to afford him a trial of any sort, the NAACP says, no clearer case for federal intervention can exist. Names of witnesses are withheld to protect them from similar treatment.

Probe Promised in Killing of Vet

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

300 See Six Officers Open Fire on Youth

Sat. 11-15-47

ROCHESTER, N.Y.— Following a protest by the local NAACP that the fatal shooting of Roland T. Price, 19, a veteran, by a squad of patrolmen, was completely unjustified, Police Commissioner Thomas C. Woods last Friday promised an investigation. 14c N.Y. P.

As a crowd of about 300 persons watched, Price, formerly of Greensboro, was shot seven times by six officers after, police said, he had threatened to pull a gun. Later it was found that Price was comletely unarmed. Sat. 11-15-47

According to reports Price caused a disturbance in a downtown restaurant claiming that he was short-changed $4. He was wearing his Army uniform because he planned to visit the Freedom Train.

Six Fired at Oonce

The six officers say Price made a move as if to draw a gun and they fired at him at once.

Police Chief Copenhagen said that Price with his hand in his pocket remarked, "Don't come near me copper, I've got a gun." He was then warned not to shoot. Detective Chief Collins termed the shooting justifiable.

Dr. Charles T. Lunsford, former president of the NAACP, headed the group protesting the tragic incident. Price served in the Army 18 months being discharged last March.

Ex-Soldier, 19, Slain By Police As 300 Watch

Chicago, Ill.

Defender

Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 7 (AP)—The City police commissioner today promised a "thorough investigation" of the fatal police shooting of a 19-year-old former soldier last night as a crowd of about 300 persons watched.

The Negro youth, Roland T. Price, formerly of Greensboro, N. C., was shot seven times by a squad of six patrolmen after, police said, he had threatened to pull a gun. 14c N.Y. P.

Called to Restaurant.

The police had been called to a downtown restaurant where Price, wearing the Army uniform his family said he had donned for a visit to the Freedom Train, had claimed he was short-changed $4. Sat. 11-15-47

Detective Chief Edward W. Collins described the shooting as "completely justified." Monroe County Coroner David H. Atwater in a certificate of homicide said the "death was caused by bullet wounds inflicted by police in line of duty."

Collins said Price was "given 15 to 20 minutes in which to surrender after he had threatened to shoot the officers."

Police Commissioner Thomas C. Woods announced the investigation after Dr. Charles T. Lunsford, former president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, protested that early evidence indicated the shooting was "completely unjustified." 11-15-47

Police Chief Henry T. Copenhagen said Price, with his hand in a pocket, warned, "Don't come near me, copper. I've got a gun," when a patrolman approached him in the restaurant.

Policeman William Hammil pulled his own revolver and backed the youth out of the restaurant and 250 feet along the street.

Copenhagen said when police reinforcements arrived Price was warned not to shoot but replied, "Get out of my way or I'll let you have it."

The six officers, in a report to the precinct station, declared, "He made a move as if to draw a gun and all the officers fired."

Copenhagen said that it was discovered that Price carried no gun.

More Violence In Rochester

Daily Worker

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—(ANP)—As NAACP officials called for a grand jury investigation "to determine what, if anything, is wrong" with the Rochester Police department, a new instance of violence against Negroes was reported.

One man, Elijah McCray, 37, was shot and instantly killed last week and a second, Sam Alexander, 23, suffered three bullet wounds in the chest. The shootings climaxed what police called a two-week series of burglaries during which David Vialot, owner of an electrical appliance store, had reportedly been robbed of $1,500 worth of merchandise. Atlanta, Ga

Three weeks ago, Roland T. Price, an ex-GI from Greensboro, N. C., was riddled with bullets fired by six cops. At the time, police officials called the slaying necessary because the victim, later found to be unarmed, "had threatened to shoot." Thur. 12-4-47

In a report on that, the local branch of the NAACP wrote:

"It seems to have been a case of improper and incompetent police handling of a difficult situation. We recommend an early grand jury investigation of all the facts in the Price case. Not for the purpose of indicting, but in order to determine what is wrong."

Dewey Sits on Plea To Probe Killing of Negro Vet by 6 Cops

PM, New York, N.Y.

Sun. 11-28-47

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Gov. Dewey had not responded late Friday night to a week-old request to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the fatal shooting on Nov. 6 of Negro war veteran Thomas Price by six Rochester policemen.

The request, made last Saturday by the local chapter of the Progressive Citizens of America, called the killing "unjustifiable" on the basis of evidence disclosed in official reports and "a serious infringement of civil liberty."

Also unanswered was a simultaneous request by the PCA to the public safety commissioner urging immediate suspension of the six policemen involved.

Charge Probe Wasn't Thorough

The PCA requests, signed by William C. Wolgast, Rochester chapter chairman and principal of East High School here, charged that the local authorities did not conduct a thorough investigation.

The shooting occurred shortly after 10 p.m. in a narrow street off Main St. with more than 300 persons looking on. The crowd had collected while Price, who was wearing his Army uniform, was backed out of a saloon and down several city blocks by a patrolman with a drawn pistol.

The original trouble had been caused by an argument between Price, who had been drinking, and a bartender over the change he had received when he paid his bar check. 11-28-47

Victim Was Not Armed

The police said that Price, who had said he was armed, apparently reached for his gun. The cops all fired and seven bullets were found in Price's body. Price was found to be unarmed.

A two-hour inquiry, held between midnight and 2 a.m., returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide."

Free 6 Cops Who Riddle GI's Body

14C

Chicago, Ill. Defender

Sat 11-29-47

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—The six policemen who fatally wounded Roland T. Price, 20-year-old ex-serviceman, following an argument over shortchanging in a restaurant, were cleared of guilt by Coroner David H. Atwater here last week. The coroner's verdict held that the victim 'came to his death from gunshot wounds inflicted by members of the police department in line of duty."

Defender

During the four-hour inquest, at which 16 persons testified, the six policemen told how they fired a total of 23 bullets into Price's body after the man allegedly threatened to shoot and had made a move as if to pull a gun from inside his shirt. Later it was discovered that Price was unarmed. Most of the shots fired were in a single fast volley.

Defender

The police were called after Price claimed he had been shortchanged in a restaurant. According to Mrs. Beatrice Vialet, white, who answered the public call for witnesses, she said that Patrolman William Hamill had backed Price down the street, but that Price had both hands "close to his sides" and did not have his right inside his shirt.

Sat 11-29-47

Gov. Dewey has been petitioned by the Rochester chapter, Progressive Citizens of America, to order a special investigation of the incident.

Suit Seeks $47,500 In Freeport Police Slayings

(14c) N by Police (N.Y.-Freeport)

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

on this village last Thursday.

Service was made by Sidney Faulkner, Manhattan attorney, handling the case for the Fergusons, on Village Clerk George F. Hasbrouck. Sat. 2-8-47

In four separate actions, damages are asked for the killings of Charles and Alonzo by Policeman Joseph Romeika last February, the false arrest and false imprisonment of their brother, Richard, and the wounding of a fourth brother, Joseph, representing the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport.

Mr. Faulkner filed the papers on behalf of Richard and Joseph, their mother, Mrs. Alma Ferguson, and Charles' widow.

FREEPORT, N. Y.—(NNPA)— Atlanta, Ga. Papers in a $47,500 suit to establish municipal responsibility for the police killings of Pfc. Charles Ferguson and Alonzo Ferguson brothers, of Freeport, were served Daily World Sat. 2-8-47

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Map Freeport Strategy: The New York Committee for Justice in Freeport plans action in the $47,500 damage suits against the village of Freeport, L. I., by surviving relatives of Pfc. Charles Ferguson, Negro soldier, and his brother Alfonzo who were shot down by a Freeport policeman last February. (l. to r.) Stanley Faulkner, attorney; Congressman A. Clayton Powell, chairman of the committee; Joseph Ferguson, and Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the committee. Thurs. 1-30-47

Sue Freeport In Cop Killing Of Fergusons

(14c) N by Police (N.Y.-Freeport)

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Thurs, 1-30-47

Papers in a $47,500 damage suit were filed against the village of Freeport, L.I. yesterday by members of the Ferguson family. The suit charges municipal responsibility for the police killing last February of Pfc. Charles Ferguson, Negro soldier, and his brother, Alfonso.

Filing suit were Richard and Joseph Ferguson, their mother, Mrs. Alma Ferguson, and the widow Annie Ferguson.

Congressman A. Clayton Powell, Jr., chairman of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport which assisted the complainants in preparing the suit, said, "To win any part of this case will mean a treme[illegible]eeport. It will establish municipal responsibility for police brutality against any person because of prejudice."

In four separate actions, damages are asked against the village for the killing of Pfc. Charles Ferguson, Negro soldier, and his brother, Alfonso; the false arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution of Richard and the wounding of Joseph Ferguson by Policeman Joseph Romeika, Feb. 5, 1946, in Freeport, L. I. The brothers were still in uniforms of the U. S. armed forces. Thurs. 1-30-47

The Army, Navy and civilian courts officially exonerated the brothers of any wrong-doing.

Stanley Faulkner, New York City attorney, drew the briefs and is preparing to handle the case for the Ferguson family. The papers were filed today with George F. Hasbrouck, Freeport village clerk.

Freeport L. I., Sued in Cop Killing of Two Brothers

PM New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 1-30-47

A $47,500 damage suit was brought today against the village of Freeport, L. I., by relatives of Charles Ferguson, Negro serviceman, and his brother Alfonso, both shot to death on Feb. 5, 1946, by Joseph Romeika, a Freeport policeman.

Announcement of the suit was made by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D., N. Y.), chairman of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport.

Powell said the suit sought to establish the principal of "municipal responsibility for police brutality against any person because of prejudice."

Four actions were filed with Freeport Village Clerk George F. Hasbrouck by survivors of the brothers.

The suits ask damages from the village for:

¶ The killing of Charles and Alfonzo.

¶ The false arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution of Richard, their brother.

¶ The wounding of Joseph, another brother. 1-30-47

The four brothers were together on the night when Romeika lined them up, and a moment later fired the shots that resulted in death for Charles and Alfonzo. Charles was wearing an Army uniform, Joseph his Navy garb. PM

Papers for the case were drawn up by Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport. New York, N.Y.

14c 1947 Negroes by Policemen (North Carolina)

Police Slaying Of Prisoner Excites Bad Racial Feeling

Journal & Guide

Sat. 6-21-47

WARRENTON, N.C.—(A N P)—Police slaying of a prisoner, under arrest on drunken and disorderly conduct charges, brought about such a wave of indignant racial feeling here and in nearby Norlina last week that local authorities petitioned the state highway patrolmen for assistance in curbing a possible outbreak of rioting.

The slain man, identified as Henry Andrews, 25, from the Ridgeway section of Warren county, was one of two accused of attacking officers who had arrested them. The other man was Ivey Mayo, of Norlina.

According to police reports, the fatal shooting occurred as Deputy Sheriff Mark Bottoms, of Warren county, and Police Chief Will Carter, of Norlina were returning Andrews and Mayo to Warrenton after arresting them. Andrews had been taken into custody at Scott's store in Ridgeway. Mayo had been arrested at the Norlina bus station after he and another man had caused a disturbance.

ATTACK REPORTED

As the car containing the four men came within a mile of Warrenton, Andrews is said to have attacked Carter, striking him about the face and head. Bottoms said the slain man sought to get possession of Carter's gun, and in the scuffle, the police chief grasped the gun and fired. The bullet struck Andrews in the mouth.

Mayo also allegedly struggled to get away, but his attempts were unsuccessful. Though he struck Bottoms several times, the officer succeeded in holding him.

When the quartet reached the jail, Andrews was found to be dead, according to Warrenton's Police Chief J. B. Pittary.

INQUIRY MADE

An immediate inquiry into the death was ordered by Coroner Ed Petar of Warren county, and a coroner's jury returned a verdict absolving Carter of blame and terming the killing "self defense."

Sat. 6-21-47

A large crowd of both Negroes and whites gathered around the courthouse during the inquest, but no disturbance was reported. According to Police Chief Pittary, "things have quieted down here, but we don't know what to expect later. I understand the situation is still bad."

By the time the inquest was over, eight state highway patrolmen had arrived in town, with more slated to come in the event the tension increased. It was disclosed that an undetermined number of state patrolmen had been sent to Norlina also.

Warren county, a district having a large proportion of Negroes in its area, is near Northampton county, scene of a recent series of racial incidents.

Carolina Cop Kills Negro

N.Y., N.Y.

WARRENTON, N.C., June 8 (UP).—A Negro being brought here to jail was shot and killed by police chief Will Carter of Norlina, N.C., last night and local officers, sensing mounting racial tension, called for the state highway patrol to help maintain order. Daily Worker

Highway Patrol Sgt. W. C. Carter said he was leaving four men in Norlina where feeling was reported high but that there had been no disturbance.

The Norlina police chief claimed that he and deputy sheriff Mark Bottom were bringing the victim, Willie G. Andrews, and another Negro, Ivey Mayo, to jail here when the Negroes tried to seize his gun. Mon. 6-9-47

Andrews and Mayo had been arrested on disorderly conduct charges.

A coroner's jury exonerated the officer on grounds that he fired in "line of duty" and in "self defense."

When the police car arrived here and Andrews' body was taken out a crowd of Negroes gathered quickly and Warrenton police chief J. B. Pittary called for highway patrolmen. Mon. 6-9-47

Police Slaying Causes Near-Riot

Afro American

WARRENTON, N.C.— (ANP)

Police slaying of a prisoner under arrest on drunken and disorderly conduct charges, brought about a wave of indignant racial feelings here and in nearby Norlina last week. Baltimore, Md.

Local authorities petitioned the State highway patrolmen for assistance in curbing a possible outbreak of rioting. Members of both races gathered in crowds around the courthouse during the inquest, but no disturbance was reported.

The slain man, identified as Henry Andrews, 25, from Ridgeway section, was one of two accused of attacking the officers who had arrested them. The other man was Ivey Mayo of Norlina.

According to reports, Deputy Sheriff Mark Bottoms of Warren County and Police Chief Will Carter of Norlina,, were bringing the two men to Warrenton. Near town Andrews is said to have attacked Carter. Sat. 6-21-47

Racial Tension Grips Two N. C. Towns After Slaying

Memphis Tenn. World

Tues. 6-17-47

WARRENTON, N. C.—(ANP)— Police slaying of a prisoner, under arrest on drunken and disorderly conduct charges, brought about such a wave of indignant racial feeling and in nearby Norlina last week that local authorities petitioned the state highway patrolmen for assistance in curbing a possible outbreak of rioting.

The slain man identified as Henry Andrew, 25, from the Ridgeway section of Warren county, was one of two accused of attacking officers who had arrested them., The other man was Ivey Mayo of Norlina.

According to police reports, the fatal shooting occurred as Deputy Sheriff Mark Bottoms of Warren county, and Police Chief Will Carter of Norlina were returning Andrews and Mayo to Warrenton after arresting them. Andrews had been taken into custody at Scott's store in Ridgeway. Mayo had been arrested at the Norlina bus station after he and another man had caused a disturbance.

SHOT IN MOUTH

Tues. 6-17-47

As the car containing the four men came within a mile of Warrenton, Andrews is said to have attacked Carter, striking him about the face and head. Bottoms said the slain man sought to get possession of Carter's gun, and in the scuffle, the police chief grasped the gun and fired. The bullet struck Andrews in the mouth.

Mayo also allegedly struggled to get away, but his attempts were unsucessful. Though he struck Bottoms several times, the officer succeeded in holding him.

When the quartet reached the jail Andrews was found to be dead, according to Warrenton's Police Chief J. B. Pittary.

SELF-DEFENSE CLAIM

An immediate inquiry into the death was ordered by Coroner Ed Petar of Warren county, and a coroner's jury returned a verdict absolving Carter of blame and terming the killing "self defense."

A large crowd of both Negroes and whites gathered around the courthouse during the inquest, but no disturbance was reported. According to Police Chief Pittary, "things have quieted down here, but we don't know what to expect later. I understand the situation is still bad."

By the time the inquest was over, eight state highway patrolmen had arrived in town, with more slated to come in the event the tension increased. It was disclosed that an undetermined number of state partolmen had been sent to Norlina also. Tues. 6-17-47

Warrn county, a district having a large proportion of Negroes in its area is near Northampton county scene of a recent series of racial incidents.

Two Negroes, Officer Killed, Another Hurt, Police Chief Held

Birmingham Ala.

LANCASTER, S. C., Aug. 16—(AP)—Coroner W. L. Adams scheduled an inquest today in the death of Constable Coleman B. McAteer, one of three men killed in two separate gun battles near the North Carolina-South Carolina border late Thursday. The Birmingham News

Pending the outcome of the hearing, sheriff's deputies were maintaining an guard at the hospital room of J. B. Patterson, former police chief of Waxham, N. C., who, Sheriff W. B. Evans, said was involved in both shootings. No charges have been placed against Patterson.

Deputy Sheriff Oscar Adams reported that he and McAteer attempted to stop Patterson's car and were met with bullets. McAteer was killed. Adams was shot in the right hand and had to have his lower right arm amputated. Patterson was shot four times in the side and shoulder. Sat. 8-16-47

Sheriff Frank Niven, of Union County, said Patterson was wanted in connection with the fatal shooting of Luther Miller and Isaiah Brown, Negro bus station employes, at Waxham, earlier Thursday.

Sheriff Niven said Miller and Patterson had trouble while Patterson was police chief. Mayor T. R. Nisbet said Patterson was dismissed from the force following an altercation with two white men in which he was charged and convicted of assault. Sat. 8-16-47

North Carolina Cop Kills Man

Defender

Pleads Self Defense After Shooting

Chicago, Ill.

By JOHN LeFLORE

WILLIAMSTON, N. C.—A trigger-happy police officer killed a Negro here Tuesday noon and offered the usual "self-defense" alibi to justify his act. Sat. 3-15-47.

The officer, John Roebuck, said the dead man, Tom Stokes, opened a knife on him as he tried to effect the colored man's arrest.

Roebuck said he had been called to a Negro pool room operated by James Slade, as the result of a disturbance between the operator and Stokes. The officer maintained that as he led the latter to a police car he drew a knife, whereupon he, Roebuck, shot and fatally wounded his prisoner.

Witnesses said that Roebuck's attempt to manhandle Stokes precipitated the trouble between the two.

Police Kills Farmville, N. C. Negro Youth

Norfolk, Va.

FARMVILLE N. C.—Meb Vines Jr., 22, son of Meb Vines Sr., and the late Mrs. Farbee Hornes Vines, was shot to death by Redden Fields, a police officer, Aug. 17, outside the city limits here, when he repeated the statement that he and his companions had no reason to be afraid of law enforcing officers, which led to a fight and the subsequent death of Vines. 9-6-47

According to witnesses, Vines, a boy scout and veteran of World War II, was riding with two friends when he asked to be taken to Roy Dixon, outside of the city limits, to get something to eat.

When the driver of the car pulled to the curb to park, one of the friends said, "there's the police." Vines is reported to have turned and said that they didn't have to be afraid of the police, and opened the door of the car and got out.

Sat.

On his way to Dixon's place from the car, Vines stopped to talk with an acquaintance. While he was talking, a policeman named Gregory came up to him and asked him to repeat the statement made when he got out of the car. Vines repeated the statement, and when he finished, the officer slapped him in the face. Vines returned with a blow that knocked the officer to the floor.

Journal & Guide

During the fight between Vines and Gregory, Fields, the other policeman, came from around the house and is reported to have drawn his gun and struck Vines with it twice, then pulled the trigger and shot him three times. The bullets entered the victims's stomach and chest. Vines straightened up and ran about 25 feet and said, "they got."

Sat

Young Vines was a member of the Catholic Church here. He joined at the age of two.

White Cop Who Slew Man After Surrender Freed

Defender

Chicago, Ill

By JOHN LeFLORE

THOMASVILLE, N. C.—A trigger-happy white policeman was given the "green light" to wantonly kill more Negroes here last Monday when he was freed of second-degree murder charges in the poolroom slaying of the 26-year-old Negro operator. Sat.

Judge Howard Steed found "no probable cause" against Police Officer Bennie Hicks, 24, despite the testimony of numerous witnesses during a three-hour hearing who said that the policeman fired the final shot into Albert William Thurkel Jackson's body following the colored man's surrender.

Hicks and another officer claim they went into the pool room to investigate a complaint and that Jackson shot at them. He denied that the victim threw aside his gun and pleaded "I surrender" and was on the floor. The policeman said that Jackson was crouched behind a pool table which he used as a shield. 11-22-47

His testimony was contradicted by a number of witnesses who said the officers not only provoked the trouble with their bull-dozing tactics but that Hicks, after having been slightly wounded in the gunplay, would accept no surrender plea from Jackson. They said that as the colored man lay on the floor wounded and writhing in pain, the office pumped a fatal shot into his body. Sat. 11-22-47

Jackson was killed by the officer on Oct. 10. A coroner's jury absolved the officer of blame for the murder. However, the slain man's brother swore out a warrant for the policeman's arrest and he was subsequently docketed on a second degree murder charge.

Albert Craddock, only Negro member of the coroner's jury, testified in court that he found one bullet hole in the wall only 14 inches above the floor.

Attorneys for the complainant have not decided whether they would present the case to the Davidson County grand jury in Lexington this week.

14c 1947

Inquest Today In Pistol Death Of Laurens Negro

Record
Columbia
S.C.

LAURENS, Dec. 23—An inquest into the death of Ozell Lloyd, 21-year-old Gray Court Negro, who died Sunday night in the Laurens county hospital of a pistol bullet wound, was slated at 4 p. m. today.

Police Chief W. T. Ivey said that Lloyd had been shot by Lieut. A. C. Dial when the officer tried to arrest Lloyd. Ivey quoted Dial as saying the Negro was advancing on him with a knife when the shot was fired, after a disturbance on West Laurens street. Dec. 12-23-47

FBI Sees No Reason To Probe Police Slaying

Memphis World

Memphis, Tenn.

Fri. 8-8-47

Sterling Brown, 289 Scott Avenue received scant aid Monday when he took the clothing of his slain son, Cornell Thornton, 21 to the local FBI office and asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation men to look into the circumstances of the youth's death at the hands of local policemen.

Young Thornton was killed last Saturday morning after officers said he refused to halt and while he was trying to escape from a stolen automobile.

Patrolman E .C. Phillips was exonerated by Chief Seabrook in connection with the shooting. Chief Seabrook said the patrolman was acting in line of duty."

Thornton was shot twice in the back of the head as he was allegedly climbing over a fence in the rear of N. Watkins, after being chased into the yard by the policemen, Phillips and Bell. He was reported dead on arrival at John Gaston Hospital.

ELDER THORNTON SPEAKS

The youth's father expressed doubt over the manner in which it was reported his son met his death. He was not satisfied by the condition of the boys clothing when he received them .... there was virtually no blood on the clothes. Neither was he satisfied that the boy was killed at the place reported. He felt that other causes underlay his son's death. He didn't like the manner in which the first reports of the boy's death were re- [illegible] him and his wife. He also [illegible] other circumstances preceding the boy's slaying with what happened later. So, he went to the FBI office here to get their advice or help and "have his mind put at ease."

Fri-8-8-47

In relating his version of the incident, Thornton said, "A week ago today, I believe it was, or last Tuesday, Cornell and his girl friend rode the No. 10 bus out to Cooper and Poplar. They had a row in Overton Park, and she started screaming. Some white boys came and Cornell hid in the woods.

"Police took the girl home .... I don't want to give her name, but I know it. Police came after Cornell at 4 a. m. the next day, but the girl had warned him and he was staying with his grandmother a few blocks away. They came back another day at 6 a. m., but he wasn't home then either."

[illegible] morning at 4 a. m. a

Fri. 8-8-47

sergeant and two policemen came to my house and ransacked it. They flashed lights around in all the closets, asked me about my tools, where we got our clothes and all. There was a Negro man outside all the time. The officers brought him into the house. He was Eddie Hayes of Hayes and Langston Funeral Home. Eddie asked the officers if they had told us. And they said "No." He asked if he could tell us. My wife then asked if there was anything wrong with her boy, and if he was dead. Mr. Hayes, said, "I suspect so." The officers then said, I seemed to be a "good Nigger" and everything was all right. Hayes then took my wife and me to John Gaston Hospital. He left us in the car and came out shortly, telling us that the boy was dead and his body had been sent to his place. We went to his funeral parlor and identified our son's body.

"He had been shot in the back of head, and the whole back of his head was in pieces. He had a V-shaped dent on his forehead as though he had been hit there.

"Cornell left home Saturday night to go to town.. He was dressed up. He called my wife at 10:30 and said he was coming home. His clothes were not bloody, not even his shirt. He had beggar lice on his suit, and mud, but no blood. I wanted the FBI to investigate and see if there is any soil like that on Watkins, to find out if he was killed there or not.

FBI TURNS "THUMBS DOWN"

Thornton reported that when he went to the FBI office with the boys clothing and obtained an interview with an unnamed officer, he was told that the FBI officers concurred in the report given out by the Memphis Police Department, and could see no need for further investigation.

Thornton said he told the FBI man, that inasmuch as he was only seeking to get at the real facts of the slaying and since he believed in the integrity of the FBI, that he woud accept the explaining give and let the matter drop.

The FBI man pointed out that Police records show that young Thornton has a police and Juvenile Court record dating back to 1939. Records show he was handled in Juvenile Court for car prowling and suspected of stealing bicycles. He was given two sentences in Criminal Court here on larceny charges, records show.

The Police radio operator put out a call Saturday night for all squad cars to be on the lookout for a 1936 Ford sedan, license 3-44029 stolen from G. T. Ealm, 958 Elizabeth, around 1 a. m. Fri 8-8-47

Shortly after 3 a. m. Patrolmen Phillips and Bell spotted the stolen car in a service station on North Watkins, with Thornton at the wheel, Chief Seabrook said. He said Thornton started up the stolen car and tried to drive off when he saw the two officers approaching.

Pursued by the officers, Thornton jumped out of the car he was driving leaving the car still running. The machine jumped the curb at Watkins and Galloway and stopped on the sidewalk.

"To escape, the Negro tried to go over the fence," Chief Seabrook said. "They shouted to him to halt and then Jatrolman Phillis opened fire, shooting the Negro in the head." Fri. 8-8-47

Mr. Thornton Sr., said the boy woud be buried Thursday of this week. He reported some difficulty in having the boy's body removed from the Hayes and Langston Funeral Comany to the East Memphis Funeral Directors Co., which he wished to handle the body. He said the Hayes firm charged an exorbitant rate to make the transfer.

Cop Kills Man Appearing on Break-in Scene

14c N

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A 30-year-old man was shot to death by a city patrolman Wednesday night as he attempted to escape, according to a police report, from a break-in scene. Sat 11-8-47

The man was identified as Horace Wade, 923 Tenth Avenue, South, who was shot twice near the John Bouchard & Sons Company warehouse at 1024 Harrison Street. 11-8-47

City Patrolman W. R. Smith said he went to the rear of the building after an ADT alarm and found a coat obviously left by the intruder. He waited near the coat and in a few minutes Wade came running from the building.

"I yelled, 'Stop, boy!'" Smith said, 'and when he continued running I fired several times." Wade was shot once in the head and just above the shoulder blades. He ran for several yards before falling.

Probe Killing By Dixie Cop

14c N

Chicago Defender

Gun Riddled Body Belies Claim

Chicago Ill

COVINGTON, Tenn. — In response to demand by both white and Negro citizens, an effort to secure a grand jury investigation of the brutal killing of James Wade, 38-year-old farmer and father of eight children by City Marshal Jim Scott, white, was announced here this week. Sat

Wade's bullet-riddled body was found at the scene of the killing, where the marshal claimed he shot the farmer when he resisted arrest for questioning. The dead man was shot six times and no weapon was found in his possession except a small pocket knife, which was closed and still in his pocket. 7-26-47

According to the marshal Wade was reported to have been meeting a white woman, whose husband called upon him to arrest Wade. The marshal and the woman's husband forced Wade into a car and took him to the woman's farm where his body was found. Mrs. Wade, wife of the dead man, told newspaper reporters that her husband was building a new house, and had canvassed white farmers in the vicinity to purchase lumber and furniture second-hand. She stated that Wade had bought several articles of furniture from the woman he was supposed to have been meeting, and charged that she had been selling them to him without her husband's knowledge or permission. This is supported by Wade's reputation in the neighborhood as a sober and industrious worker, who had never been in trouble of any kind before. 7-26-47

On the testimony of Sheriff Charles Forbes and the white woman's husband, a coroner's jury released the marshal with a verdict of justifiable homicide.

Binghampton Youth Killed By Officer

Tues 8-5-

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—(SNS) — Cornell Thornton, 20-year-old Binghampton subdivision youth, was shot to death by a police officer early Saturday morning between 3 and 4 in the 400 block on North Watkins St. Reports are to the effect that Patrolman E. C. Phillips fired two shots into Thornton's head, allegedly as he was attempting to escape from a stolen car.

The officer was exonerated. In his report to Chief of Police Seabrooks, Phillips stated that he and his partner, Patrolman Harold E. Bell, spotted Thornton in a service station at Galloway and North Watkins .When they (the officers) approached, Thornton jumped into the car and drove away, the policemen contended. They added that Thornton attempted to climb a fence in his effort to escape, and that's when fatal shot were fired. Hayes and Langston ambulance made the call. Tues. 8-5-47

Comments in Binghampton were widespread as to the necessity for the officer to kill the boy. It had not been disclosed at this writing whether or not Thornton was even responsible for the theft of the car.

Sterling Thornton, father of the victim said that he was certain that the slaying of his son had no connection with a stolen car. He intimated that officers had been searching around his house several days earlier for his son on another matter, but he insisted that Cornell did not live with him. He expects to have the case investigated.

Tues 8-5-47

The deceased leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Thornton, of 289 Scott; his widow, Mrs. Alvener Thornton, a grandfather, Mr. Earnest Thornton, a grandmother, Mrs Annie Johnson, and a number of other relatives. East Memphis Funeral Home had charge of the remains. Funeral services at this writing, were tentatively set for Thursday of this week.

Several Witnesses Say Killing Was Unnecessary

Informer, Houston Texas

140

Policeman Loses Job

Sat. 12-27-47

DALLAS – The slaying of Charles Curry, a bus passenger, by a policeman, Nolan O. Ray, last Wednesday shocked the city and threw a dampet on the gay approach to a Merry Christmas. Th fatal shooting of Charles. Curr 906 Gleason St., has been under investigation by the grand jury sinc Thursday and with a number o witnesses scheduled to testify Tuesday, the probers are expected to take prompt action.

The killing was unnecessary and the fatal shooting of Curry was a disgrace anyway it is looked at. This is the sentiment shared by eye witnesses to the tragedy. Here is the story as told by them:

Argument and Shooting Unnecessary Informer

It happened in the rear of the bus where Negroes sit, if they sit at all, when busses are crowded. The policeman, who was not in his uniform, could have been sitting up toward the front with the other white passengers. He was the only passenger sitting on that long seat on the side of the bus back of the rear door. And a rod which extends from the floor to the ceiling of the bus "sorta" divides the long side seat. A Negro passenger sat on the end of the long side seat separated by the rod from the end of the seat occupied by the white passenger. But when the white passenger commanded him to get up he promptly got up without protest and without argument and moved to another seat and apparently was through with it.

At that instant another Negro passenger across the aisle made a remark which resulted in an argument and the shooting of still a different Negro passenger who had said nothing, had done nothing and was not at all party to the fray. Sat. 12-27-47

WAS SICK AND QUIET ON BUS

Charles Curry who was shot not by reason of anything he did or said, was ill and sat quietly on the bus. His hands, both of them were in his pockets long before the policeman got on the bus and long before the policeman and the other passenger got into the argument. He kept his hands in his pocket largely from habit, and in stance partly because the flu probably had him. Some passengers noted this when they got on the bus because although Curry was was naturally the quiet type, he looked sick.

After becoming "heated up" in the argument with the Negro passenger in front of him, the policeman turned toward the back where Curry was and ordered him to take his hands out of his pockets and shot him while he obediently started to do so. Curry didn't get up, didn't move forward, didn't thing to justify being shot. It appeared he was trying to say "I haven't a knife," but got no further than saying "I haven't a kn--" when the blazing gun bit him beneath the left eye and silenced the sick passenger who was on his way to town to attend to some business.

Argument Was Petty

The policeman's argument with the other passenger was brief, and perhaps a bittrite. The Negro passenger said "If that was me I wouldn't get up," the policeman replied "well, why don't you try it." When the Negro didn't answer the policeman said again "why don't you try it?" With still no answer he rose from his seat and asked it again. Then his disputant answered: "I wont, but it isn't because I am scared to," and burst out laughing. Then the policeman came out with a gun in one hand and badge in the other.

"If he had shown his badge first and told his disputant to hush, it would have been over without argument and certainly without any one being shot," one witness said, "because the man in the argument didn't know he was a policeman and really didn't appear to care about carrying on the discussion."

One witness declared the policeman did not show his badge before he fired his gun. Another said he showed ti as he fired and not previously when he was giving orders. Still another witness put it this way: When the white passenger said, "take your hands out of your pocket," he was ignored because n onoe knew he was a policeman.

After the policeman shot the passenger who had said or done nothing he just stood there glaring madly at the man who had argued with him. When the bus stopped and the rest of the Negroes started out, the policeman, still with gun in hand, made them all sit back down.

Policeman Discharged From Job

The policeman was fired from the force Friday by police Chief Carl Hanson who said Mr. Ray had told conflicting stories.

At the scene of the shotting, the policeman said he was nervous and didn't know why the gun went off. Later in the day at police headquarters, Mr. Ray told his chief he had shot Mr. Curry deliberately and in self defense: But the next night he told Chief Hanson he had no recollection of pulling the trigger and that when the gun went off it surprised him.

Here are the details of the story told by Mr. Ray when he claimed he shot in slef-defense:

Mr. Ray was seated alone toward the rear of the bus. Although he sat on one of the last 3 seats in the back of th ebus, this was referred to in one account of the incident as a sectiion reserved for white passengers. An elderly Negro man sat down beside Mr. Ray. Mr. Ray asked him to move to the Negro section. The lederly man moved back to the next seat, referred to in accounts of the tragedy as the Negro section.

A second Negro then remarked "If that had been me, I woudn't have moved."

Mr. Ray claimed that at the same time the second Negro put his hands in his pockets as though to draw a weapon. Mr. Ray claimed several other Negroes did likewise.

According to the report, Mr. Ray then claimed he showed his badge and ordered the Negroes to remove their hands from their pockets.

Mr. Ray claims, the report says, all Negroes removed their hands except a third Negro passenger who was neither the one who sat next to the policeman, nor the one who made the remark about not moving. 12-27-47

Mr. Ray claims that after Mr. Curry refused to remove his hands he made a threatening gesture and he saw what he thought was a knife being drawn and he shot Curry.

However police found Mr. Curry had no knife and no knife was found near him as he sat, still upright in the bus dead from the shot.

Mr. Ray was immediately relieved of his duties to appear before tthe grand jury but was later fired when it was seen he was giving conflicting accounts of the accident.

Lived In Dallas 7 Months

The dead bus passenger, Charles Curry, had been married a year and had lived in Dallas about seven months. A native of Mexia, he was 23 years old and was a veteran of World War II, having spent overt three years in the armed services.

The trigger-happy off-duty policeman, Nolan O. Ray, 4711 Ash Lane, was 24, also a veteran and had been on the police force seven months. In civilian cloths, Mr. Ray was on his way to work when he shot Mr. Curry. It occurred at Good and Elm-just 3 or 4 blocks from police headquarters and the officer could have easily arrested any passenger and put him in jail, if he had been doing something wrong instead of engaging in a petty argument and shooting an innocent by-stander.

Mr. Curry was shot thru the left cheek just under the left eye, the bullet lodging in his head. Funeral services were held in Mexia Sunday where his parents, Jonah Curry and Mrs. Amie Curry, still live. The East Dallas Funeral Home, Scipio Scholars and Chester Johnson, funeral directors, called to take the body from the Mount Auburn trolley bus where Curry was shot, was in charge of the final rites in Mexia.

14c 1947

14C N.Y. Police

Another Negro Killed By Hate-Crazed Cop

The Worker

New York. N.Y.

DALLAS, Tex.—Charles Curry, 23, was fatally shot early Wednesday morning by a city policeman, Ray Nolan. The incident occurred on a Mt. Auburn trolley bus when the policeman tried to enforce the Jimcrow seating law.

An unidentified young Negro took a seat in the rear of the bus next to the policeman who was not in uniform. The policeman demanded that he move, and he did so without any argument.

Sun. 12-28-47

A second Negro then said: "If that had been me, I wouldn't have moved."

The policeman heard this remark, jumped up and flashed his badge, and demanded that all Negroes remove their hands from their pockets.

All obeyed, except a third Negro, Charles Curry. When he refused, the policeman fired at his head. He was killed instantly by a bullet entering his cheek.

Sun. 12-28-47

Police reports have established that Curry was neither the man who had sat beside Nolan, nor the one who had made the remark about not moving. Nolan feebly claims that he shot because he thought Curry was about to draw a knife on him. No knives were found on Curry or in the bus.

14c 1947 Negroes by Whites (Alabama)

Escaped Convicts, Slayers Of Motorist, Elude Posse

The Courier-Journal

By the Associated Press.

Piedmont, Ala., Jan. 15.—Four Negro convicts who shot and killed a motorist after fleeing from a Rome, Ga., County prison camp were surrounded tonight near here, but were believed to have escaped again.

Louisville, Ky.

Wed. 1-15-47

Deputy Sheriff Harry Davis of Floyd County, Georgia, said the four were seen at the cabin of an uncle of one of the men. He said there was speculation they were headed for Gadsden, Ala.

Another convict, who took part in the same escape, a white man, was not with the Negro men, Davis said.

Night Police Officer J. C. Braswell said between 20 and 30 Georgia and Alabama State highway patrolmen and sheriff's deputies had surrounded the area, densely covered by underbrush.

The five overpowered two Floyd County Prison Camp guards today, shot and killed a passing motorist, and escaped toward Atlanta in the automobile of the slain man.

Sheriff Mark Horton said they took two pistols and a sawed-off shotgun from the guards.

They stopped the car of Joe Chandler, Livingston, Ga., cotton-gin operator, shot Chandler through the neck, and fled in his car.

Guard Slugged, Gun Taken.

Sheriff Horton said Odell Brown, 18, Rome, Ga., one of the Negro convicts, approached one of the guards and asked if he could get some wood for a fire. The guard gave his consent and turned his back. Horton said Brown hit the guard and grabbed his gun. The other convicts overpowered the second guard and grabbed a pistol and a shotgun.

The sheriff identified the other convicts as Ed Lee Parker, 23-year-old white man, and the following Rome Negroes: L. P. Campbell, 30, serving 20 years for burglary; Odell Johnson, 21, serving 10 years for forgery, and Jeff Lee Hill, 24, serving one year for arson. Brown was serving 15 years for rape. 1-15-47

Chandler's automobile was found abandoned later.

Slain Man's Wife Is Ill.

Sheriff Horton listed the guards as J. E. Rogers and Fields Stansell. Louisville, Ky

Chandler, 69, had been in business in Livingston since 1924. His wife is seriously ill at their farm home at Morton's Bend. Her physician went to the home to be with her when the news was broken. Wed. 1-15-47

SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH GROUP URGES PROBE OF MURDERED VET

Black Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla.

Shores Asks Issuance of Warrant For Man Killed While Shopping

WIFE EYEWITNESS TO FATAL SHOOTING

Sat. 2-1-47

BIRMINGHAM.—Called together by the Southern Negro Youth Congress, a group of Negro and white citizens met Jan. 20 at the 16th Street Baptist church to discuss action to bring to justice the murderer of Willie Daniel.

Outlining the case, Arthur G. Price, staff member of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, said: "On December 21, Willie Daniel, 21-year-old veteran was shot through the side and killed while Christmas shopping with his wife. To date no action has been taken by the city of Bessemer to indict John Vandreford, T. C. I. guard who killed this man without provocation." 14c N by W (Ala.)

The father of the deceased with Mr. A. D. Shores, local attorney, visited the Bessemer deputy solicitor asking that a warrant be issued for the arrest of Vanderford. The warrant was denied and Attorney Shores was asked to present witnesses evidence in order that the solicitor could place the facts before the grand jury on February 17. It is interesting to note that during the interview the solicitor stated he had no previous knowledge of the case, although stories were carried in all the local newspapers.

The interracial committee, incensed over this unwarranted murder and others in the community voted to give full support to the family of Willie Daniel in prosecuting Vanderford. Alarmed by the growing cases of police brutality in the community against Negroes, the group assembled discussed the establishment of a permanent civil rights group to defend the rights of all individuals.

Attending the meeting were the 18-year-old wife of the deceased, Ruby Daniel, and his friend, Joe Windham who was an eyewitness to the murder. Sat. 2-1-47

Negro Dies Of Wounds At Kilby Prison After Exchange Of Gunfire

Advertiser Thur. 6-12-47 Montgomery, Ala.

A Negro identified as Fred Johnson, of nearby Pike County, died in Kilby Prison hospital yesterday of wounds suffered, Sheriff Ben Reeves said, in an exchange of gunfire with "three or four" white men.

Sheriff Reeves said the Negro, "crazy drunk," went to the home of one of the white men Saturday night and started shooting, but did not hit anyone. The white man, along with others there at the time, returned the fire, the officer added, hitting the Negro in the face.

Reeves said no charges had been filed and no arrests made yet, and declined to give names of the white men involved. He added, however, that some prosecution might be undertaken.

The Negro was first taken to a Troy hospital, charged with assault with intent to murder, the sheriff said, but when it appeared he might be hospitalized for some time and because it was necessary to guard him as a prisoner, he was transferred to Kilby.

By coincident, the officer said he was only a short distance from the scene of the shooting when it occurred. He said he was in the vicinity investigating the killing of another Negro by a member of his own race, but emphasized there was "absolutely no connection" between the two killings. Thur. 6-12-47

Negro Killed; Lowndes Man Free On Bond

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala

Victim Struck By Pistol Bullets, Shotgun Blast; Grand Jury Probe Set

By GEOFFERY BIRT

Down in Lowndes County last Thursday night, at about 7 p.m., a Negro named Elmore Bolling was killed with six pistol bullets in his front, and one shotgun charge in his back, and left lying in a ditch. Sun. 12-7-47

The scene of the slaying was near Lowndesboro, outside the dead Negro's place of business.

The man accused in this case is a white man named Clarke Luckie, who lives in the southwest part of Lowndes County, at Bragg, and who works for the Producers Commission Company in the Union Stock Yards, operated by Alber H. Sullivan.

The dead Negro, Bolling, according to conversations last night in the surrounding neighborhood, appears to have had an excellent reputation, was 39 years old, married and had seven children. Over several years this Negro has built for himself a small trucking business. His estate is said to be $5,000.

12-7-47

Out on Bond

Luckie was arrested early Friday, according to Sheriff Otto Moorer, and released almost immediately on a $2,500 bond pending Grand Jury action. The Grand Jury next meets on the first Monday in March.

The cause for the shooting seems vague at the moment—something about an alleged insult against Luckie's wife by the dead Negro, it is said.

Questioned about about this "insult" Assistant County Solicitor J. R. Bell said he believed it was made to Mrs. Luckie over the telephone. It was said that this telephone conversation between the Negro and Mrs. Luckie took place earlier in the day.

Just what took place outside the Negro's shack last Thursday, when Bolling was shot, is not clear. Montgomery, Ala

It appears that Bolling's truck was parked on the highway, and in it were one or possibly two Negro children. The truck was not directly outside the shack but slightly down the road. When shot, Bolling was not in the truck, but presumably somewhere between the truck and the shack. Some residents spoke of the presence of a second white man at the shooting.

Other people won't talk about the incident at all—especially Negroes. They seemed to be fearful of making any statement.

In accordance with his trucking business, Bolling frequently hauled cattle to the Montgomery stock yards, where he was known to Luckie. Luckie, on the other hand, working at the stockyards and, living at Bragg, crossed and recrossed Lowndes County regularly.

Questions at Negro funeral parlors in Montgomery disclosed that one of these had been notified by Deputy Sheriff J. H. Jackson, Jr., that Bolling had been killed.

A funeral home operator said the Negro had been shot half a dozen times with a pistol, and once in the back with a shotgun.

The funeral director said he picked up the body in a ditch just off Highway 80 near [redacted]

Young Negro Mother Victim of Brutal Slaying

By Arthur G. Price

Special Projects Director of the Southern Negro Youth Congress

THE history of human brutality in America records few instances which equal in depravity killing of Mary Noyes in Camp Hill, Ala., on May 4. Mary Noyes was a young Negro woman of 22, mother of three children. She expected a fourth child to be born in August. The Worker

As dusk settled in Camp Hill, Mary Noyes entered the Jimcrow Negro section in the rear of the Veterans Cafe on the one-block main street of Camp Hill. She was accompanied by two young friends, 'teen-agers. They sat at a table and ordered orange sodas. Minutes later Mary Noyes was dead. N.Y., N.Y.

The circumstances which led to the shooting of Mary Noyes read like a chapter from the annals of fascist savagery.

Early in the evening of May 4 Albert Huey, white cotton-mill employe, walked along the street and stopped where Australia Farrow, Negro veteran, sat with a friend. Huey demanded that Farrow surrender a walking stick which the latter had. Farrow refused and explained that the cane had belonged to his grandfather and that he needed it because of a foot ailment contracted in overseas service. Huey cursed the veteran and went away in anger.

He returned a little later with a friend, Charles Chester. Again he demanded the walking stick. Again Farrow refused and a fight ensued, during which Farrow, as a means of protection, struck Huey on the head with the cane. Huey went home to get his fun and returned to the area. **He entered a Negro residential area called Pecan Alley and began slapping women, hitting them in the head with the butt of his gun and chasing them off their porches and out of their houses. He then rushed into a cafe operated by and for Negroes, shot at the proprietor, Mr. Powers, and chased him out of his establishment.** Throughout this rampage, Huey was using abusive language. 6-8-47-Sun.

Eventually he entered the rear of the Veterans Cafe. He attacked a group of Negro young men sitting at a table, striking them with the butt of his gun. They ran out the back door. He ran to the door behind them in order to block their exit and turned on the patrons who remained. In this group were Mary Noyes and her friends. They ran toward the white section of the cafe for the front door, and Huey pursued, cursing and shooting. One of his bullets struck Mary Noyes, who because of her condition could not run as fast as the others. She slumped to the floor. Huey kicked her and commanded her to get up. She rose and stumbled out of the Jimcrow back exit. Huey followed her into the alley and shot again.

Mary Noyes stumbled through the alley to the street and onto the porch of Mrs. Emory Reeves, a white resident. One of her friends rushed to the porch and then hurried to the little farm house on the outskirts of Camp Hill to inform the family. When Mary Noyes' father arrived at the porch, his daughter was dead.

Camp Hill is five miles from Dadeville, the county seat of Tallapoosa County, Ala. The deputy sheriff came from Dadeville and arrested Albert Huey at 8 p.m. that Sunday. At 2 p.m. the next day the murderer of Mary Noyes was released on $1000 bond. Since then he has walked the streets of Camp Hill and continues to threaten Negro sharecroppers and tenants of the vicinity with certain death should they dare venture into the business section of the town. **Meanwhile the Negro veteran, Australia Farrow, was arrested and is being held in jail until he furnishes $1,000 bail.**

There are two policemen in the town of Camp Hill—Otis Rogers and Otis Smith. During the entire period of Huey's orgy of beating and shooting, they followed directly at his heels through the street. The chief policeman, Otis Rogers, has said that he did not restrain Huey because he (Rogers) had a sore arm!

Murder Of Negro Puzzles Citizens Of Alabama

Informer, Houston, Texas

Sat. 12-13-47

LOWNDESBORO, Ala. —(ANP) —Was Elmore Bolling, 30-year-old Negro found dead in a ditch just off Highway 80 near here last Thursday night, the victim of a lynching party because of jealousy over his success as operator of a small trucking business in this community? Why is it that only one man is suspected of the slaying when Bolling's body was found riddled with shot gun and pistol bullets? How could one man have used both weapons?

These are the questions being mulled over by the puzzled and frightened Negro residents, who won't talk about the matter for fear of reprisals. They think Bolling was the victim of jealousy, but dare not openly express their opinion. 12-13-47

According to the quiet rumors going around in the Negro neighborhood, Bolling appears to have an excellent reputation. Married, he had seven children and had built for himself a small trucking business worth an estimated $5,000.

At a Negro funeral parlor in Montgomery, it was learned that one of his neighbors had been notified by Deputy Sheriff J. R. notified by Deputy Sheriff J. H. Jackson of the man's death. A funeral home operator said Bolling had been shot a half dozen times with a pistol and once in the back with a shotgun.

12-13-47

Accused of the murder is Clarke Luckie, white employe of the Produxers Commission company operated by Albert H. Sullivan in Union Stock yards, Montgomery. Luckie, lives in the southwestern part of Lowndes county, at Bragg.

14c 1947 Negroes by Whites (Alabama)

Use Accused Slayer to Frame Alabama Negro

By Abner W. Berry 14c) N b W (Ala.)

ALBERT HUEY, a white man accused by eye-witnesses of having murdered a pregnant Negro mother in Camp Hill, Alabama, on May 4, last, has been freed.

Australia Farrow, youthful Negro veteran of World War II, who defended himself against Huey with a walking cane, is in Dadeville jail charged with attempted murder. Daily Worker New york, N.Y.

In the County Probate Court sitting in Dadeville, county seat of Tallapoosa County, earlier this week Huey, the accused murderer, was the main witness against the Negro veterans. Farrow was bound over to the Grand Jury which is to meet sometime in August or September

Wed. 6- 11-47

COUNTY OFFICIALS say that Huey cannot be prosecuted unless there is a warrant sworn out for him.

A Camp Hill policeman, Otis Rogers, is reported to have witnessed the hate-inspired rampage of Huey's which ended in the death of Mary Noyes, 24-year-old Negro mother.

Huey's one-man assault on the Negro community began when he attempted to take a walking cane from Farrow. Farrow resisted, striking Huey on the head with the cane, whereupon Huey hurried home for his gun. He then came back to the Negro community of Camp Hill and injured about a dozen Negro men, women and children with the gun butt.

Mary Noyes was shot in the hip as she sat in the Negro section of a restaurant. As she lay on the floor bleeding, Huey kicked her, telling her to get up. Huey followed her as she stumbled into the street and shot her again. Mrs. Noyes, tiring from loss of blood, crawled onto the porch of a white woman, a Mrs. Reeves, and died before aid reached her.

●

BOTH FARROW and Huey were arrested and lodged in the Dadeville jail the next day. Huey was released in $1,000 bail placed by two local white men. Farrow could not make bail and remained in jail. He admitted that he struck Huey with the cane, claiming self-defense.

Huey has now been freed with no charge against him. Farrow's lawyer, Sim Wilbanks of neighboring Alexander City, says that the only hope of prosecution rests with the state's attorney general. Since Huey's offense violates state law, the state law enforcement officer can intervene.

The policeman, who admitted to an investigator that he saw Huey commit the acts of violence on May 4, says that he did not try to stop him "because my arm was sore"

Wed. 6- 11-47

IN DEFIANCE of the terror which has kept most Negroes out of Tallapoosa County towns during the post weeks, about 50 Negroes attended the hearing. Three were witnesses for Farrow.

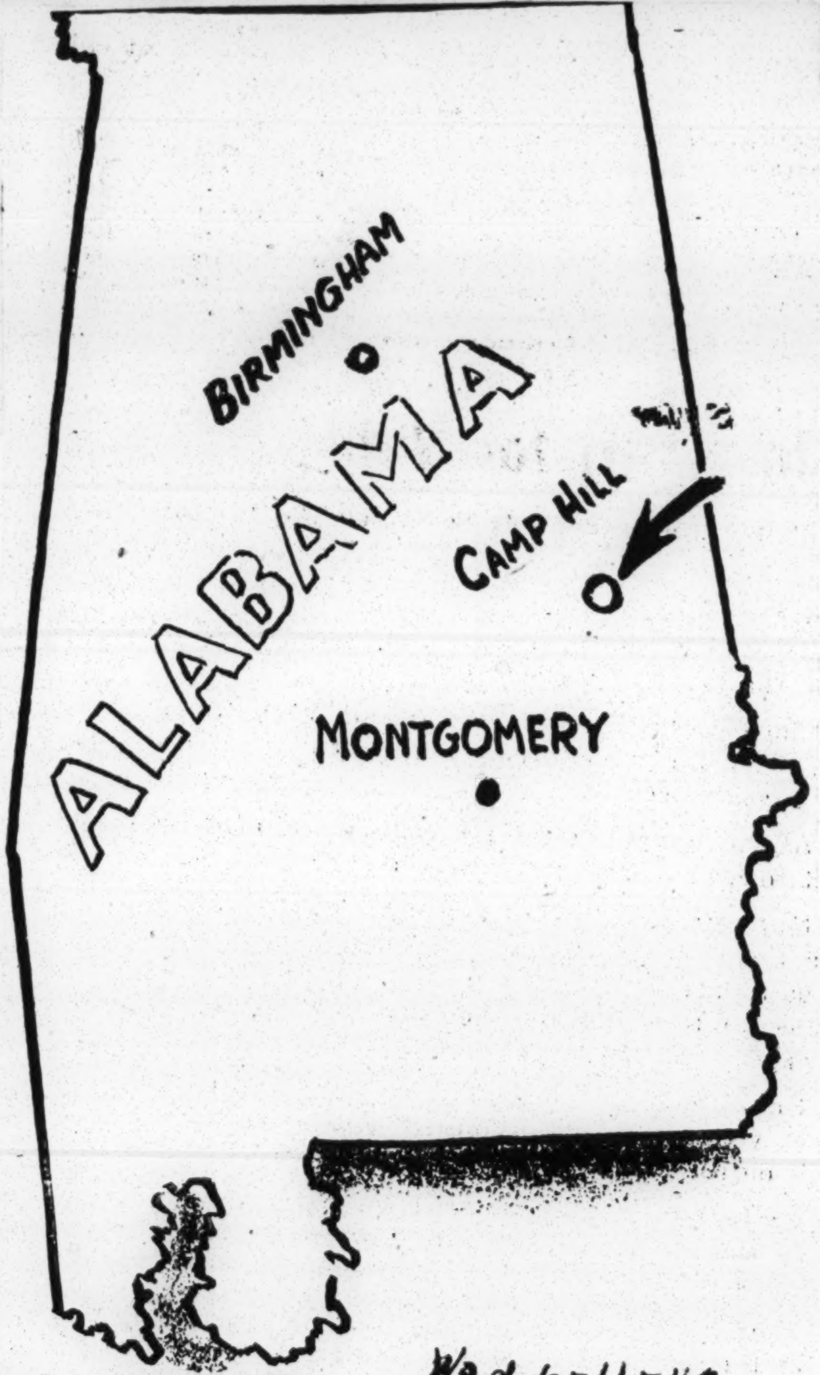
Negro veteran Herbert Hill testified that he saw Huey rush Farrow and attempt to take the cane. Jim Adams told the court that Huey ordered him to "keep your mouth shut."

Huey claimed that Farrow struck him as he stooped to tie his shoes. But this was contradicted by his own witness, Charles Chester, who told the court that the two men had had some words but that "I couldn't hear because of the traffic."

●

CAMP HILL and other Talllapoosa County towns long have been infamous for anti-Negro violence. In the early 'thirties a Negro church was burned to the ground in Camp Hill because sharecroppers held meetings there. In Reeltown, not far away, Cliff James, a Negro farmer, and a number of his neighbors, were killed by sheriff's deputies when they resisted confiscation of their livestock for debt.

The present sheriff, Horace Aiken, has a long record of killings and beatings A Negro was beaten at a Snow Hill fish fry by Aiken on May 25 because he asked the sheriff why he was being arrested. In 1945 the sheriff shot into a car, killing the wife of an overseas Negro soldier and the driver.



Back of the present terror is a severe labor shortage, due to Negro emigration during and since the war. Also Negroes are reluctant to accept wages of $12 a week. Wed. 6-11-47

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A PLANTER told a representative of the Southern Conference of Human Welfare recently that "N----rs are lazy; I have plenty of work and can't get any of them to do it." He favored

Wed. 6-11-47

measures—legal or extra legal—to get the Negroes out of town.

This attitude is opposed by the small businessmen. A number of them spoke against the drive to keep Negroes out of towns, since their livelihood depends upon Negro trade.

Farrow and the other Negroes of the country are victims of this cheap labor campaign.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare are stepping into the breach. The SNYC has retained a lawyer for Farrow and both organizations are pressing for the prosecution of Albert Huey

Charge 2 Arkansas White Men, Woman With Slaying Of Negro

14c N.F.W

Defender

Chicago Ill

JONESBORO, Ark.—Two white men and a woman, brothers and a sister, were arrested and charged with murder last week in connection with the cold-blooded slaying of a defenseless Negro in their office last Sunday night.

The whites, Walter Montague, 52, his brother, Byrnis Montague, and sister, Gladys Montague, 40, were released on bond after their arrest. They are charged with the murder of Ralph Donaldson, 30-year-old colored man.

Walter, manager of the Jonesboro Transfer Company, accused of firing the fatal shot, was arrested shortly after Donaldson was killed in the white man's office Sunday night.

Byrnis and Gladys were arrested Wednesday when they admitted they had driven by the victim's home that night and lured him to the office of the transfer company where Walter was waiting to commit the apparent premeditated murder.

Sat. 10-4-47

Miss Montague, bookkeeper for the transfer company, and her brother, Byrnis, were also charged with being principals in the case by Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ivie C. Spencer.

The brothers were questioning Donaldson about certain remarks he was accused of having made about their sister, Gladys, when Walter shot him. The charges against the three whites were filed by the prosecuting attorney's office.

The warrants issued here on Wednesday against Byrnis and Gladys accused them of aiding in committing the crime. The prosecuting attorney said they will be tried as principals "and sentenced as principals if found guilty."

In a preliminary hearing Thursday in Municipal Court, Walter was bound over to the Grand Jury.

The past criminal record revealed that Walter was sentenced to two years in the Arkansas Penitentiary several years ago for the pen-knife slaying of another white man, Wylie Nash Jr., and his friend, in front of the transfer company's office.

White Slayer Faced With Man's Death

Pittsburgh Courier

Pa., N.Y.W

14c

Sat. 10-4-47

JONESBORO, Ark.—(ANP)—A first-degree murder charge was entered here last week against Walter Montague, white, manager and part owner of the Jonesboro Transfer and Storage Company, for the fatal shooting of Ralph Donaldson, former company employe, Sept. 21.

Donaldson was fatally wounded by a bullet from a .38 calibre pistol which struck his right elbow and then pierced his body. He died in an elevator at the hospital while en route to the operating room.

THIRD KILLING 10-4-47

Witnesses to the shooting were Montague's brother, Byrnis, and his sister, Miss Gladys Montague.

The slayer was onoe sentenced to two years in the State prison on a manslaughter charge, Chief Barker said. Six years ago he was convicted of slaying another white man, Wylie Nash Jr., with a pen knife in front of the company building.

14c 1947

Negroes by Whites (California)

Gangsters Slay Fight Manager

(Cal.) Atlanta Daily World Ga.

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — Robert Crane, Portland fight manager, was shot and killed here last week by one of three white gunmen as Crane, his wife, and the wife of his landlord sat in their kitchen.

Shortly before noon, a man carrying a delivery-man's ledger rang the bell and asked for Rainey Shaw the landlord, pretending that he had a delivery to make. As Shaw was in New York, for the World Series, his wife unsuspectingly led the man into the kitchen. There he announced "this is a stick-up," and ordered all to lie down on the floor. No sooner had they complied than he fired point blank at Crane, hitting him in the chest. The women then saw him run to a car where his two companions were waiting with motor running and sped away. Ga.

Negro and white detectives immediately began a search for the trio who were said to be driving a green Chevrolet. Thu. 10-9-47

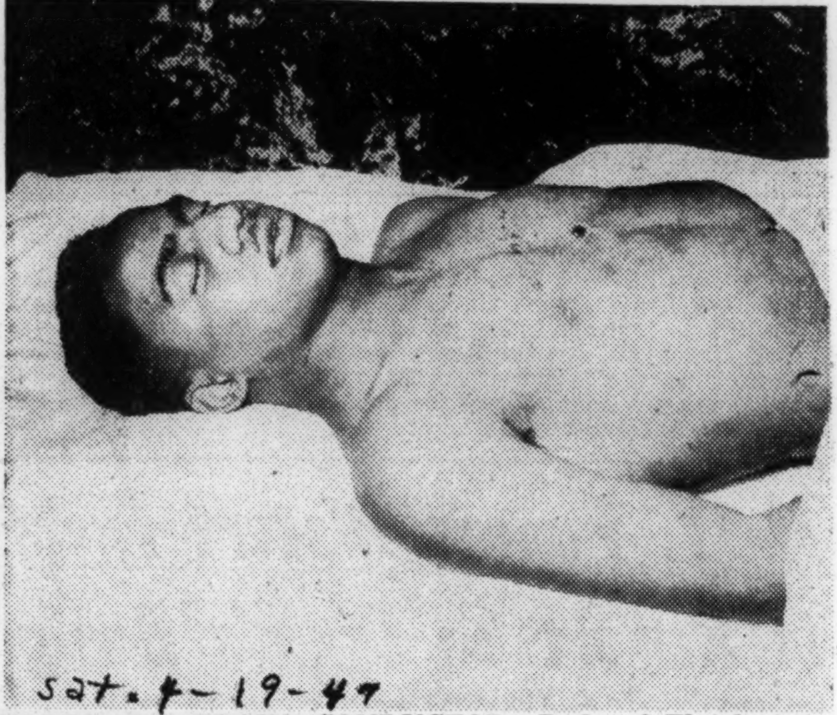
Although rumors have been numerous, the most persistent is that Crane was "rubbed out" because he disobeyed some demand made by members of the underworld who on several occasions in the past have tried to muscle in on the coast fight game. Some believe the gunmen followed Crane here from Seattle.

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
sat. 4-19-47

14c N by W

FAMILY AND PASSENGERS WHO SAW TRAIN MURDER—Family and passengers on Atlantic Coast Line train on which Fletcher H. Melvin, Provident Hospital orderly of Baltimore, was killed Saturday by train conductor because he did not heed order to move to jim-crow car. Left to right: Mrs. Robert Gilmore, a passenger; Mrs. Ruth Council, his sister; E. C. Melvin, grandfather; Mrs. Alice Melvin, grandmother, and Pvt. Robert Gilmore, another passenger on train. Melvin was en route to Dunn, N.C., to spend Easter with his relatives.

sat. 4-19-47



sat. 4-19-47

KILLED BY TRAIN CONDUCTOR—Body of Fletcher H. Melvin (note bullet hole) as it lay in Dunn, N.C., funeral home after he was shot and killed Saturday by Atlantic Coast Line conductor because he did not heed an order to move to jim-crow car. Passengers say Melvin, an orderly at Provident Hospital, Baltimore, was asleep and did not hear the request, which was given in violation of a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling last year which outlawed segregation of interstate train passengers.

Trainman's Jim Crow Effort Believed Cause of Slaying

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

DUNN, N.C.—Fletcher H. Melvin, 24, Provident Hospital orderly, was shot to death, allegedly by a white train conductor, while en route to visit relatives on Easter. Sat. 4-19-47

Witnesses said the youth was killed instantly by a shot through the heart fired by conductor C. A. James of Rocky Mount, N.C., after a special order had been given for all passengers to move into the jim-crow car up front.

According to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilmore, passengers on the crack Savannah Special of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, Melvin was asleep at the time the order was given and did not hear the conductor.

It was as the train neared Smithfield, a short while later that the passengers, all of whom had moved forward, learned of the tragedy.

Inquest Set

The orderly's body was removed from the train at Smithfield and turned over to the authorities there. Coroner J. O. Creech of Smithfield released the body to the Woodard Funeral Home and set a date for the inquest. Melvin's body later was transferred to the O. S. Payton Funeral Home at Dunn, N.C. Sat. 4-19-47

The victim's grandfather, E. H. Melvin, in Dunn, stated that the family had not received any official notification of the death, either from the railroad company or authorities at Smithfield.

Robert Young, white, attorney of Dunn, has been retained to represent the Melvin family in legal matters arising from the incident.

Melvin had been employed as an orderly at Provident Hospital intermittently since November, 1945, and had been given leave from his job to visit his mother, Mrs. Alice Melvin in Dunn, N.C., segregation of the races on trains traveling from one State to another was held to be illegal.

The fact that the train conductors apparently did not attempt to segregate passengers until they had reached the North Carolina border (both races occupied same coach from Washington to North Carolina) indicates that officials for the holidays.

John Procope, superintendent of the hospital, said Melvin lived at 728 N. Wolfe St., and was to have reported to work this morning, Tuesday.

In a ruling handed down by the U.S. Court of Appeals last year, were complying with this ruling which was handed down in the AFRO-sponsored suit on behalf of Ralph Matthews, William Scott and the Rev. William H. Jernagin. Sat. 4-19-47

It is also possible that because the order to move was not given until late in the night . . . that a conductor was relieved and the one who took over was not aware of the new ruling.

14c 1947

Negroes by Whites (Florida)

Florida Lynch Death Revealed, NAACP Demands State Probe

Chicago, Ill. Defender

NEW YORK—The NAACP legal department has urged Attorney General Tom Watson of Florida to immediately open an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the brutal murder of a Negro sharecropper who was shot in the head and beaten to death with an iron wrecking bar last November as his two terrified children stood by.

According to reports from a usually reliable source, the alleged murder was committed on the Ben Bryant farm near Greensboro, Fla., when the victim, Wyart Trueblood, a sharecropper on the Bryant farm who owned his own farm implements and was free of debt, went to the syrup mill to remove the part which was rightfully his. Sat. 2-22-47

It is alleged that as Trueblood, helped by his two sons, loaded the small cans of syrup into his car, the farmer, Ben Bryant, and his son, Keth, drove up to block the gate with a tractor, forbidding Trueblood to move his cans. The sharecropper refused to give up the syrup, whereupon Keth Bryant shot him through the head with a .32-caliber pistol. Trueblood fell to the ground but staggered to his feet, while the two children huddled against his side. Ben Bryant then rushed in swinging the iron wrecking bar, beating the wounded Negro unmercifully even after it was obvious that he was dead.

The two Bryants then called the sheriff, it is charged, claiming that they'd shot the sharecropper in self-defense as he threatened them with the wrecking bar. The sheriff evidently considered the word of the two white farmers as ample evidence, subsequently declaring that an inquest would not be necessary. Sat. 2-22-47

14c 1947

Negroes by Whites (General)

Killing Negroes Not News in Dixie

N.Y. 8-3-4

The Worker Sun 8/3/47

NEW ORLEANS.—Sometimes the murder of Negroes becomes national news but most times it gets no more than mere mention, if at all, in the local press.

Within a week two Negroes, one 21 and the other 83, were murdered here and it begins to look like both cases will be whitewashed.

The octogenarian William Brown was killed July 17, by a bullet from the gun of Charles Ventril, game warden from Point Coupee parish. The bullet entered the back of the head of the old man who was out hunting. New York, N.Y.

Brown, a sharecropper, had gone hunting in the woods near his home that day as was his habit for decades. His body was found just outside the edge of the woods.

Ventril is reported to have gone to the nearest farmhouse and said, "I have just killed a nigger."

Negro and white farmers of Point Coupee parish are aroused over the wanton killing. Brown was known to almost everyone. No attempt has been made to bring Ventril to trial.

The other case involves the killing of Elijah Myles, 21, who was shot by the foreman at the Agriculture dump. The Orleans parish grand jury suspended investigating the murder after it looked into the case for new evidence. The murder will be left open for later study by a grand jury panel.

Ferdinand J. Mohr, the foreman, told police that he had fired upon Myles when he advanced on him with a piece of pipe in his hand.

But the pathologist at Charity Hospital, Dr. George Fasting, indicated prior to the grand jury session, that the fatal bullet had entered through the back.

The District Attorney's Office placed the case before the jury when the detective bureau reported the possibility of new evidence following a complaint from the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Sun. 8-3-47

It is also significant that of the three other cases studied by the Orleans parish grand jury, two involved murder and another rape.

They were: Benny Jackson, murder of Archie Guss, Negro, on July 4; George Spriggins, murder of Emily Goodman, on June 29, and Riley Kelly, rape upon a Negro woman. June 14.

14c 1947 Negroes By Whites (Georgia)

Negro Slain; Overseer Held

14c

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

METTER, July 23—(AP)—Sheriff Harolt Flynt said Wednesday he had charged a 35-year-old white farm overseer with murder following the fatal shooting of a Negro laborer. Thurs. 7-24-47

The Sheriff said the overseer, Theodore Sheppard, was arrested when he came to the Sheriff's office to report the shooting. Sheppard said that he shot in self-defense following an argument with the Negro, Dave Newkirk, 25, about some tobacco.

The shooting occurred on the farm of Josh Bland where both Sheppard and Newkirk worked. The Sheriff said Sheppard would be held in the Candler County jail pending a committment hearing later this week. Thur. 7-24-47

Atlanta Daily World

Henry County Negro Slain On Highway

Atlanta, Ga.

Tues-8-5-47

BY MARION E. JACKSON

JACKSON, Ga.—(SNS)— Terror and fear stalked this town as C. A Scott, publisher of the WORLD ,and this reporter arrived in this small Georgia City to investigate the murder of Bus Winn, 50-year-old Negro farmer, who was slain here Wednesday by two men, believed to have been Hal Wells and Harry Ridgeway two white saw mill workers, who according to reports fired a volley of bullets into Winn's back as he was driving his wagon down the highway near Indian Springs, Ga.

The body of the slain man lay in state at Abe Trimble's Funeral Parlor at Jackson, while we investigated the shooting which stirred residents of this area, who are shocked by the mysterious slaying.

Tues 8-5-47

A few residents of this town under cover of secrecy brought the wife of the victim to talk with us. Her story revealed that she and her husband had started out in his wagon to visit a relative. Earlier, they had an argument and while enroute the disagreement broke out again. Her husband, according to her statement, began cursing violently. As he continued the two passed the two white saw mill workers who warned Winn to stop cursing and not to come back that route again.

Winn continued the argument as they rode up the highway and his wife, Ida Ruth Winn, got out of the wagon and started walking. The victim then turned his wagon around and drove furously in the direction he had come. Daily World

Ida Ruth Winn followed, but couldn't overtake him until she finally came to a spot where his wagon was parked and Winn stretched out on his back, eyes wide open, with his head gashed open from the wound in the back.

The two men according to her story told her that he wasn't dead but they were going too take him to the hospital. She cried, "My husband's dead, I know he's dead."

THREW BODY ON CHAINS

The slayers then tok the slain man's body threw it on a logging truck where it fell on logging chains and carried it into Jackson where for several hours hundreds of curious spectators milled around it before an ambulance arrived to take it to Trimble's Funeral Home.

The wife of the slain man was then jailed, where she remained until the next morning then released An investigation into the shooting is slated for August 25th.

No charges were placed against white slayers and not even a coroner's inquest was held. The men were not questioned by the sheriff and according to reports were back at work the same day at Bailey Woodard Saw Bill.

The Sheriff of Jackson, Ga., is Bud Polk. Sheriff Polk has shown no interest in a public hearing or investigation of the shooting. Yet, whele Rev. W. S. Norton, a white Methodist preacher has called for an investigation of the shooting there has been no response. 8-5-47

NEGROES TERRIFIED

All Negro residents appeared to be terrified in Jackson. Only a few were willing to even acknowledge that the shooting had taken place.

The widow of the slain man was uncertain whether she would ask an invest igat ionsi ncethe Sheriff. One of the witnesss we questioned while Rev. W. S. Norton, a white said it was merely a "shooting over liquor" but refused to go into details. Atlanta Daily World

The widow of the slain man was uncertain whether she would ask for an investigation since the Sheriff reputedly asked her "What are you going to do about it? "Obesrvers says, she screamed "I don't know." Atlanta, Ga.

Menawhile fear-ridden, quiet-talking citizens of Jackson are talking in furtive whispers about the shooting, but no one is doing anything about it. 8-5-47

Overseer Held In Metter Murder

METTER, Ga.— (SNS)—Theodore Sheppard, 35-year-old white farm overseer has been charged with murder by Sheriff Harold Flynt following the fatal shooting of Dave Newkirk, 25-year-old Negro laborer Wednesday. Atlanta Ga. Atlanta Daily World

Sheriff Flynt said that Sheppard was placed under arrest when he came to his office to report the shooting. At that time Sheppard claimed that he shot Newkirk in self defense after they had an argument over some tobacco. The slaying occurred at the Josh Bland farm where both Sheppard and Newkirk worked. Fri. 7-25-47

Sheppard will be held in the Candler County jail pending a commitment hearing later this week, the sheriff said.

Farmer Slain On Highway After Interference

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga. Sat 8-2-47

JACKSON, Ga. — (SNS) — Bus Winn, 50-year-old Negro farmer, was slain by a white man in the company of two others on a highway west of here Wednesday, according to reports.

Information was that the men interferred in a conversation between Winn and his 22-year-old wife, Mrs. Ida Ruth Winn, of Route 4, and then shot the Negro farmer on the pretext that he had drawn a shotgun on them. Winn reportedly was turning his wagon around in the road when the altercation occurred. Self-defense was claimed by the slayer and his accomplices. Sat-8-2-47

Police detained Mrs. Winn as a material witness, but reportedly made no arrest of the white men Friday. She was told to come to court on August 25.

Pittsburgh Courier

Exoneration In Slaughter Of 8 Shocking

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat-7-26-47

By JAMES E. BOYACK

(Exclusive to The Pittsburgh Courier)

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—The Negro citizens of this charming little South Georgia coastal town were shocked on learning the Superior Court Grand Jury's complete exoneration of Warden H. G. Worthy and seven prison guards questioned in the County Court House here for three days in connection with the killing of eight Negro inmates and wounding of five others of State Highway Prison Camp 18 on July 11.

In a statement made exclusively to The Pittsburgh Courier, a committee representing the colored citizens of the town declared:

"The Negro citizens of Brunswick are shocked beyond words at the findings of the grand jury.

"We have testimony that was given at the coroner's inquest last Saturday. It plainly can be seen that this terrible tragedy could have been avoided.

"No attempt was made by the prisoners to escape. The men were on the highway four hours before the incident took place, and not one made an attempt to escape, despite the fact that there were only two guards left with they, and they were beside a swamp. Sat-7-26-47

"We can see no excuse for this shooting. The most amazing thing is that this matter was presented to the white businessmen of Brunswick, and that they brought in a finding that the guards were justified in killing these men, who were unarmed, and whose only attempt to escape was from the hail of bullets.

"We cannot see how the State can continue to uphold unwarranted killing such as this. We are still calling on both the Federal and State Government to see that justice is done."

The statement was signed by C. A. Moore, NAACP branch president; J. F. Mann, H. E. Dent Jr., C. M. Wigfall and J M Atkinson.

Backs Warden In Slaying Of 8 Convicts

Pittsburgh, Pa.

14c

Sat-7-26-47

By JAMES E. BOYACK

(Exclusive to The Pittsburgh Courier)

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—Director of Corrections Charles A. Williams this week stood solidly behind Warden H. W. Worthy and his seven prison guards in their slaying of eight Negro prisoners and wounding of five others at the Glynn County State Highway Prison Camp 18 last July 11.

In an exclusive interview with The Pittsburgh Courier, Mr. Williams declared:

"The officers did everything in their power to avoid the use of firearms. They did everything in their power to prevent this unfortunate incident from 8:30 A. M. on the day of the slaying until 4 P. M."

He said the "on the spot" investigation by Assistant Director Bryan Hatchett convinced him that the warden and his men acted only when all other means of maintaining order had failed.

DESCRIBES SLAYINGS

Mr. Williams was loquacious concerning the humanitarian methods which prevail in his prisons. He described the incidents which led from a Georgia swamp where the prisoners were working in the morning, until "death in the afternoon."

In the prison camp his story bore a remarkable resemblance to that told the Glynn County Superior Court grand jury by Warden Worthy and his guards.

He said that his department now has 5,500 inmates in the various State prisons, work camps and highway camps. Sat-7-26-47

There are ninety public work camps operated by the counties. They hire the wardens and guards, also provide housing for the prisoners, and are supposed to be operated according to the rules and regulations governing the penal system.

The convict labor is provided free.

The exceptions are the Glynn County State Highway Prison Camp (near Brunswick) and the Charlton County State Highway Prison Camp. Both of these are operated by the State.

The State Board of Corrections employes three inspectors who constantly tour the county and State highway camps to see that all rules and regulations are faithfully carried out with regard to the welfare and health of the prisoners.

NEW "SWEAT BOX"

Mr. Williams showed the writer an architect's drawing of a new double unit isolation cell which he expects to construct in prisons throughout the Stae. It is 20 feet 8 inches long and 9 feet 4 inches wide, with air vents in the shape of lighting to allow air to enter.

This is commonly known as "the sweat box." A photo of the sweat box now in use in the Glynn County prison camp is found on another page. The prisoner enters this bent down. There is no light inside. He may be detained there for a period of up to thirty days and more, on bread and water. Sat-7-26-47

It is dark inside, and judging by the temperature on the outside, it must be suffocating inside. Prisoners quickly lose weight and appetite. They become sick. This is the reason why Governor Arnall placed the two visits weekly by a physician into the law.

For the first time, the writer saw the wooden cage used for the transportation of prisoners, on the road outside the Glynn County Courthouse. It was filled with prisoners waiting to testify before the grand jury.

The contraption is rivited to the back of a State highway truck. It looks like a wooden pig-pen. The top is completely covered. The sides and back are covered with long, wooden planks 6 inches by 2 inches. On the sides there are five openings about 4 inches to allow air to enter, and permit the prisoners to look out. The prisoner enters from the rear, and must sit down immediately. In this position his head is only about two inches from the roof. It is impossible to stand up inside.

14c 1947

Negroes by Whites (Kentucky)

Man Admits Killing Another To Stop Holdup

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Odis C. Allen, 49, of 329 S. Preston, yesterday was charged with murder in the shooting of a Negro, identified as Julius Lewis, 51, address unknown.

Police Court Judge Homer C. McLellen postponed a hearing on the case until October 4. Allen was held without bond.

Allen told police he shot Lewis six times in the chest with a .32-caliber pistol during an attempted holdup at 1:45 a.m. at Preston and Fehr. Tues. 9-9-47

Lewis and a Negro woman stopped him and asked for a match, Allen told officers, then Lewis struck him in the mouth, knocking him down. While getting back to his feet, Allen said, he drew the gun from his belt and fired.

Lewis was identified by fingerprints taken in 1929, when he was charged with shooting and wounding. Police said they hadn't found his present residence. The woman fled after the shooting.

White Foundry Worker Arrested

Afro American

Baltimore, Md.

Baltimore Matron Shot in Abdomen

Sat. 8-16-47

SET $10,000 BOND

Alabama Born Suspect Returned to Providence

BALTIMORE

A young white foundry worker was held in $10,000 bail for the Providence, R.I., grand jury in connection with the fatal shooting this week of a former Baltimore matron.

The woman, Mrs. Lillian Phillips, 24, of 131 Wadsworth St., was shot in the abdomen while in a lodging house with the suspect, Eugene Thomas, 25, formerly of Prattsville, Ala.

Pleaded Not Guilty

Thomas pleaded not guilty to a manslaughter charge and was bound over by Judge John P. Cooney Jr., in the Sixth District Court.

Sat. 8-16-47

According to Police Chief Inspector, the suspect admitted having been friendly with the matron and that they quarreled in the lodging house when he told her he was engaged to another woman.

A revolver was seized from under a pillow and during the tussle for its possession, the weapon was discharged crashing a bullet into the woman's body.

Died in Hospital

Mrs. Phillips died shortly after being admitted to a hospital there and her body was turned over to the medical examiners for an autopsy.

Police said the young matron and her husband, Miles, made their home in Providence two years ago after leaving Baltimore.

Slain Vet's Body Shipped to Mich.

Afro American

Baltimore, Md.

Man Shot to Death Day He Left Hospital

Sat. 8-2-47

BALTIMORE

The body of Clintard Brown, 24-year-old war veteran slain late Monday by a Greek waiter in the New McCulloh Restaurant following an argument over a cup of coffee, was shipped to Pontiac, Mich., Thursday, for burial.

The body was prepared and arrangements made by the Thomas E. Kelson Funeral Home. In the meantime, the waiter, Mike Theodore, 50, of 1422 Linden Ave., awaits trial on the shooting charge.

Brown, who had been released from the Army hospital at Fort George G. Meade earlier that day, was with some friends in the restaurant at McCulloh and Wilson Sts., when the shooting occurred.

Witnesses Tell of Shooting

According to witnesses, Brown had exchanged a few words with one of the Greek managers of the lunchroom when all of a sudden the waiter whipped out a foreign-make, automatic revolver and fired several shots.

Sat. 8-2-47

The war veteran dropped mortally wounded from bullet shots in the nose and mouth. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Provident Hospital shortly after.

Restaurant's Windows Broken

Approximately an hour after police had departed from the scene, irate neighbors and corner loungers stormed the restaurant, hurling rocks and other missles through the windows.

Brown had no relatives here. His body was shipped to the home of his mother, Mrs. Zenia Walker, in Michigan. He served two years in the Army, part of which was in the Pacific Theatre.

14c 1947 Negroes by Whites (Mississippi)

Trigger Happy Mississippi Editor Free On Bond After Killing Two

(14c) N by W (Miss)

1-4-47

Chicago Defender, Ill

ROLLING FORK, Miss. — A Mississippi sheriff who charged the press "is interested in this case only because a white man killed some Negroes," refused to disclose details of the wanton murder of two colored men by three whites at Anguilla, Miss., several days ago. Sat.

The sheriff, C. D. Crawford, did divulge, however, that H. J. Fields, white 24-year-old editor of the weekly Deer Creek Pilot, is out under a $5,000 bond on a manslaughter charge of killing the two Negroes, David Jones and Somon Toombs, and may be given a preliminary hearing "soon."

The murder was committed by H. J. Fields, as the trigger man, and his two brothers, Tom and Billy, who are said to have invaded the Negro quarters of the town allegedly to "wipe out two n—r beer joints" operated by white men.

Jones and Toombs, the latter a war veteran, were accosted on a street near one of the taverns by the three hate-crazed whites, who hurled insulting epithets. H. J. Fields was then said to have struck Toombs over the head with the butt of a pistol, which precipitated a scuffle. In a frantic effort to kill the Negro ex-GI, Fields shot his brother, Tom, who with Billy had joined in the melee to save "white supremacy."

After killing the war veteran the whites then fatally shot Jones, who was standing nearby witnessing the affray.

Another version of the trouble is that the three white men went into the Negro quarters in the late evening on Thursday seeking "some good-looking n—r gals," an accepted pastime of the rural South, and made inquiry of Jones and Toombs in their quest. The colored men are said to have resented the insult to their womanhood, which led to the fatal gun play by the whites.

H. J. Fields was charged with manslaughter in the deliberate murder of the two colored men and is at liberty under $5,000 bond. No charges have been placed against his brother.

Morgan Student Is Slain in Carolina

14c New

NEW BERN, (N.C.)—George T. Becton, veteran and freshman student at Morgan State College in Baltimore, reportedly was shot to death during the early hours of Christmas Day by a white storekeeper here in his hometown.

Circumstances surrounding the slaying are vague but indications are that the Morgan student was one of a group of youths en route to an early morning dance when the shooting occurred.

Left Baltimore Dec. 21

Becton had left Baltimore on Dec. 21, telling his landlady, Mrs. Emma Myers, 2555 McCulloh St., that he would return at the end of the college holidays.

A brother came to Baltimore on Saturday, however, to retrieve Becton's personal effects and told the story of his death.

Passenger Shot To Death By Conductor

14c

New Bern (N.C.)

Chicago Defender

White Says Negro Victim Slain In 'Self Defense'

Chicago Ill.

Sat. 4-19-47

By JOHN LeFLORE

(Special to The Defender)

SMITHFIELD, N. C. — A coroner's jury debated only a few minutes Tuesday before freeing, without charge, the white conductor who shot and killed a Negro passenger who objected to being Jim Crowed on a speeding train of the Atlantic Coast Line.

The conductor, C. A. James, of Rocky Mount, pleaded self-defense in the slaying of Fletcher Hunt Melvin, 25, of Washington, D. C., in an alleged quarrel over the segregation of Negro passengers holding tickets for interstate travel.

Despite James' assertion that he fired in self defense when Melvin threatened his life, no weapon of any kind was found on the dead body of the young Negro who was on his way to Dunn, N. C., his former home. to visit relatives.

James Contradicted Sat. 4-19-47

James was freed by a jury impaneled by Coroner J. Durwood Creech in the face of testimony of a colored couple that all of the conductor's assertions were false. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilmore, who boarded the train at Baltimore, said that contrary to James' testimony Melvin fell asleep shortly after boarding the train and caused no disturbance of other passengers.

James testified that Melvin went up and down the coaches, using profane language, objected to moving into the Jim Crow cars when the conductor ordered Negro passengers to leave the white cars at Enfield, N. C., and finally on his way to the segregated car turned and threatened the conductor's life. James' blazing pistol killed the youthful passenger instantly.

The conductor testified that Melvin had been drinking, and asserted that he had grabbed his train report and tore it up.

When questioned at the inquest by Attorney J. R. Young who represented Melvin's family, James gave no satisfactory reason why he had not called upon the eight or ten "deadheading" railroaders on the train to aid in subduing Melvin if, as charged, the passenger was "rowdy."

Failed To Call Police

He likewise failed to explain why he had not called the police or other civil authorities to arrest Melvin when the train stopped for 15 minutes at Rocky Mount, or at its next stop Wilson. Sat. 4-19-47

Melvin was shot shortly after the train left Wilson.

The conductor told the coroner's jury that when the train was taken over from the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad at Richmond he had been informed that he had a very heavy passenger load, about 75 per cent of them Negroes, several of them rowdies.

Because of the crowded condition of the train, he said, he made no effort to segregate the Negro passengers until Enfield was reached. According to the testimony of the Gilmores, he then prodded Melvin in the ribs, and the passenger resented both his manner and the fact that he was segregating those Negro passengers who held interstate tickets.

One of the principal witnesses against the dead man was James S. H. Pryon, a Negro train employee. No passenger witnesses for James were called although the jury was told that several passengers were willing to testify for the conductor.

White Driver Held for Manslaughter

Afro-American Baltimore, Md

HERTFORD. N.C.— Robert L. Allen, white, of Woodland Circle, was ordered held last week on a charge of hit-and-run and manslaughter in the death of Archie Bembry, 30, last Sept. 18. 10-11-47

Judge Charles E. Johnson of Recorders Court held Allen for trial during the October term of the Superior Court when probable cause was found against him. His bond remained at $3.000.

14c 1947

Negroes by Whites (Oklahoma)

Indict Farmer For Slaying Negro Youth

The Worker
N.Y., N.Y. Sun. 8-15-47

14c N.Y.W.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—Prompt action by Oklahoma NAACP branches has resulted in the indictment of an Idabel, Oklahoma farmer for the swimming-pool murder of 14-year-old Roland Byrd. The white farmer, who claimed that he had only fired to frighten the boys because they were "embarrassing" his wife and daughter by swimming nude in a government pool adjoining his land, was originally arrested without charge.

Information subsequent to his indictment for first degree murder indicates that the man's wife and daughter were absent on the day of the murder, and that the man had first left his house with a shotgun, and then had retrned to get the rifle with which the fatal shot was fired.

The Oklahoma NAACP is urging "Roland Byrd Memorial Meetings" to highlight the fight for adequate Negro recreational facilities. Outside Tulsa, there is no swimming pool in Oklahoma to which Negroes are admitted.

In Oklahoma City NAACP national director Gloster B. Current told delegates from 87 state branches of the organization that the United States is losing face as a world leader because of the gulf betwen democratic theory and practice here. Sun. 6-15-47

"There cannot be peace, security and freedom in the world until the Negro is free" Current said. Addressing the closing session of a two-day NAACP convention which met directly after the acquittal of the Greenville, S. C. lynchers, Current emphasized that the only solution to the problem is complete elimination of segregation and discrimination and provision of equal opportunity, full and fair employment. As an immediate step, he called for passage of federal FEPC and anti-lynching laws.

Four Killings In Four Days Down In Dixie

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.,

Wanton Slayings By Murderous Whites Alarming In South

Sat. 8-23-47

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Dixie's "self-defense murders," in which white men shoot Negroes in the back and all-white grand juries or coroners term the killings as "justifiable homicides committed in self defense," are steadily increasing and have totaled four during the past four weeks, according to Daniel E. Byrd, president of the Louisiana State Association of NAACP Branches, during an interview Thursday.

Mr. Byrd's files reveal that the most recently uncovered murder was the wanton slaying of William Brown, an 83-year-old Negro, on July 19 at Lettsworth, La., by a game warden.

OTHER SLAYINGS

Other slayings recorded were those of Wesley Thomas, 31-year-old woodcutter at Calhoun, La., by W. D. Thompson, a 21-year-old white man, on July 30; the fatal shooting of Versie Johnson, 34-year-old prisoner, by law officers at Prentiss, Miss. on Aug. 1; and the shooting of Elijah Myles, 21-year-old rubbish collector, here in New Orleans on July 18 by Ferdinand Mohr, white foreman on the Agriculture Street Dump.

Concerning the Lettsworth killing which was fully uncovered last week by a white labor union official, William Brown, 83-year-old Negro, had gone into the woods near that town to hunt squirrels. Charley Ventril, a white game warden, went into the woods, engaged Brown in an argument concerning the contents of Brown's hunting bag, took him to the edge of the woods and shot him in the back of the head, according to reports received.

The warden is alleged to have walked to a nearby white sharecropper and told him, "I just shot a 'nigger': let his folks know."

SELF DEFENSE PLEA

The union official told NAACP representatives that the official coroner's report stated: "The Negro's gun was cocked; the killing was justifiable because the warden shot in self-defense."

At Calhoun, La., Wesley Thomas, 31-year-old woodchopper, was shot in the back and killed by W. D. Thompson, 21-year-old white farmer, in a sharecropper's shack Wednesday, July 30, about noon.

According to law officers, Thomas allegedly threatened the life of his white employer about a.m. that day. Sheriff Milton Coverdale, who expressed the opinion that the killing was justified, said a search had been under way for Thomas since early that morning when he engaged in an argument with Z. W. Fuller, white farmer. The young slayer's father was a witness to the argument, the sheriff said. Sat. 8-23-47

WESLEY THOMAS

Young W. D. Thompson, who fatally shot Wesley Thomas about three hours later, had left home shortly before the shooting, armed with a .38 caliber revolver "to search for a lost hog," the sheriff said.

The youth told the sheriff he had tried to capture Thomas and when "he tried to run into a house, I let him have it."

A coroner's jury last Thursday termed the shooting a "justifiable homicide," saying Thompson had acted in self defense" because the Negro was running into a house where there were two butcher knives, a loaded shotgun and rifle and a hatchet.

The NAACP learned from a reliable source, however, that Thomas had been an employee of Z. W. Fuller, who owns a farm near Calhoun. Thomas is said to have asked for his pay in wages on Saturday. The employer is said to have refused, telling Thomas to report for work as usual on Monday. Thomas did not report for work on Monday but went to work for another farmer instead.

Informants told the NAACP that Fuller is alleged to have started out to form a mob but finding it difficult, resorted to another course. Unconfirmed rumors were to the effect that a Negro man was offered $50 to kill Thomas.

In the other case, Versie Johnson, a 34-year-old rape suspect, was shot and killed at Prentiss, Miss., after being taken to the scene of the alleged crime. Sheriff G. O. Barry and two state policemen, Andy Hopkins and J. Spencer Puckett, shot Johnson when he is alleged to have grabbed for Puckett's gun. Sat. 8-23-47

A determined mob was reported to have given Sheriff Barry eight hours to "get a confession out of Johnson." The district attorney said the filing of charges against the officers would be merely a formality and a hearing would be made to "clear the white men."

The fatal shooting of Elijah Myles in New Orleans also resulted in a no-true bill being returned despite the testimony of doctors and witnesses that Ferdinand Mohr, white city employee, had shot Myles in the back.

14c 1947

Negroes by Whites (Tennessee)

Freed Twice In Youth Slaying

Chicago, Ill.

Seek 3rd Warrant In 'Manslaughter' Case

Chicago Defender

CHATTANOOGA — A warrant against a prominent white man here who was held on manslaughter charges for what was regarded by many as the wanton killing of a young Negro was dismissed for the second time last Monday in General Sessions Court.

However, militant white Atty. Maurice Weaver, who won acclaim as a defense lawyer at the Columbia, Tenn., riot trials, indicated that a third warrant would be sought against the white man after a new grand jury is empaneled. He was retained by the family of the slain youth, Robert Gilbert, 24, to prosecute the case.

The defendant, H. P. Brady, chief of air traffic control at Lowell Field here, shot and killed Gilbert in the backyard of his (Brady's) home on Airport road the night of May 13. Sat. 7-12-47

Brady, after fatally shooting the Negro youth, told police that he had been bothered with prowlers in his yard and had laid a trap by tying a cord across the yard, attached to a can filled with rocks. When the cord was tripped and turned over the can on May 13, a son of his turned on a porch light which revealed a Negro in the yard. The white man, who was hiding in the shrubbery outside his residence, fired without questioning Gilbert or giving him a chance to surrender.

Life Sentence Given White S.C. Convict for Highway Murder

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

AIKEN, S.C.— A white convicted robber, also wanted in Georgia for the murder of a white man, was given a life sentence in Judge L. D. Lide's Criminal Court here recently for the murder of Sam Mason last April. Sat. 11-29-47

The convict is George W. Bush, alias Solesbee. Mason's body was found on the Edgefield Highway about six miles from here, with a bullet wound in his head. According to the State historian, no white man has been given the death sentence for such a crime since 1850.

Indict White Patron For Murder of Maid

14c Y by W (Texas)

The Informer

Houston, Texas

Dallas— Donald Everett Croven, 29-year old white machinist and Oak Cliff resident, was indicted for the murder of Mrs. Dollie Richarson, 32, of 1801 -A Hilton, at a near downtown hotel where she was employed as day-maid. The indictment of Craven was returned by the Dallas County Jury Tuesday in a report to Criminal District Judge Henry King.

Mrs. Richardson was reportedly shot 5 times by Craven when he became angered and fired after Mrs. Richardson was unable to give him information about his white girl friend who also allegedly worked at the hotel during the night. Mrs. Richardson, who has been working there only 2 weeks was in the maid's room resting just before checking out for the day when the fatal shooting occured. Sat. 6-28-47

Two bullets went through her chest and lodged in her lungs. The third shot lodged in her back near the spinal cord as Mrs. Richardson attempted to go tell the hotel keeper of the incident after the second shot. The forth and fifth shots were in the arm and caused flesh wounds.

It was reported by witnesses that Craven had become argered at his girl friend after she did not return his affections and sought seemingly to evade him by not accepting others of his various invitations. Sat. 6-28-47

White Hotel Patron Gets Speedy Trial For Murder Of Maid

The Informer Houston, Texas

14c

Sat. 7-5-47

DALLAS — Donald Craven white hotel patron goes on trial Thursday, July 3, for the murder of Mrs. Dollie Richardson, Negro maid at a near down town hotel May 10. in Dallas criminal District Court number one.

Craven, 29 year old machinist and Oak Cliff resident. is one of the first cases to be tried under the new Judge, Robert A. Hall who was recently appointed by Governor Beuford Jester to fill the vacancy created by the death of Judge Winter King.

Officials, apparently, have worked at record speed in bringing thsi case before the bar of justice Indicted by the Dallas County Grand Jury June 23 six weeks after being booked for the Monday evening pistol murder of Mrs Richardson, Craven is thus brought to trial within seven weeks of the day when he commited the gruesome crime.

This pending trial also sets something of a record in that it is the first in several years wherein a white person is being prosecuted for capital offense against a Negro. Sat. 7-5-47

According to witnesses, Mrs Richardson who had been employed at the hotel about two weeks prior to the slaying, was resting alone in the maids room awaiting the few minutes until her off time, when Craven walked in and asked information about a white woman whom he had befriended. When Mrs. Richardson who, investigation revealed, knew nothing of Craven or his relationship with the white woman, could not give him the desired information he fired five shots into her

Two of the bullets drilled through her chest and lodged in her lungs the second clipping off part of the hand which she had thrust to her heart where the first bullets struck. The critically wounded woman got up from her chair after the second shot to go tell the hotel keeper and was struck by a third shot from the enraged man which lodged in her back near her spinal cord; two more shots were fired striking her in the arm and causing flesh wounds.

Sat. 7-5-47

The landlady, having heard the shots was coming to investigate but before she could get into her house coat, the bullet-infested maid was at her door telling that Craven had shot her and to call an ambulance. Bleeding profusely she then staggered back into the maids' room before she fell onto a cot. She died at Parkland the next day and Craven, who was being held by police at the time, was charged with murder.

White Veteran Found Insane In Murder Of Dallas Woman

The Informer Houston, Texas

Sat. 7-12-47

DALLAS — The white man who murdered a Negro maid in a hotel two months ago because she could not give him information about his girl friend was declared insane by a jury last Wednesday, July 2, in Judge Robert A. Hall's Criminal District Court.

Attorneys filed an affidavit claiming Craven was insane and medical authorities and relatives appeared at the trial to testify that he was insane. He has been examined by Dr. Steven Weisis, psychiatrist, University of Texas, University of Berlin and American Board of Psychology. Dr. Weisis saw Craven on May 26 and June 16 and he alleged that he was insane at the time he committed the shocking crime on May 12 and that he is a victim of "dementia praccox", which in common terms means without sound mind in a progressive state.

Sat. 7-12-47

In relating the details of the trial for insanity, prosecuting Attorney Wm. B. Henley stated that after the plea for insanity had been made the state had its county psychiatrist D. Shaw to examine him and he also said that the man was insane. In such a case where its own council says a man is of unsound mind the court neither agrees nor contests the matter, except in instances where there is doubt as to the truth of the person being crazy, but puts the evidence before a jury.

Included in the evidence presented in the Craven case, Mr. Henley asserted, was the fact that Craven was a veteran of World War II and had been interned in an Army asylum. No facts were presented to indicate that he had gone crazy as a result of some mishap in the Army but is attributed to something prior to Army life where he reportedly cracked - up. His mother, Mrs. Mabel Craven Renfro, said that she had believed him to be of unsound mind since his return around 1941. Craven has a brother who has been in an asylum since 1933 and another member of the family is undergoing observation now.

Upon contacting Judge Al Templeton's court, where such cases are handled, to see if Craven would be institutionalized, we were referred to Mr. King, who has charge of transportation of such clients who said that he would be sent to the state insane asylum in Austin.

When asked his opinion of the case Prosecuting Attorney Henley declared that he was convinced of the man's insanity and that "it is too bad that some one did not report or take care of him before the disastrous event occurred."

Sat. 7-12-47

About seven weeks ago, Mrs. Richardson, who was employed at a downtown hotel, became the victim of a maniacal murder committed by Donald Craven, 29 year old machinist of Oak Cliff. According to witnesses, Craven was making a maddened search for a white woman with whom he had fallen in love but wa smaking little or no progress toward getting her to marry him, when the late Mrs. Richardson could give him no information to aid him in his hunt, he filled her body with bullets. He was enraged because after having waited for his white girl friend the better part of a entire night he had not caught her. The following day he bought a gun with the intention of killing her but when he followed her into the hotel, he lost sight of her and stopped at the maids room where Mrs. Richardson was resting until the time for her to leave. He asked her where the white woman had gone. Mrs. Richardson, knowing nothing of Craven or his affair with the woman, replied that she did not know. Whereupon the crazed man fired five bullets, three of which pierced into and lodged in various parts of her body and the other two - struck her in passing causing flesh wounds. She died at Parkland the next day.

Craven was immediately picked up and arrested after the crime and was booked for murder when Mrs. Richardson died. He was indicted for the crime by the Dallas County Grand Jury on June 3.

White Slayer's Trial Slated For Monday

The Informer

Houston, Texas

HOUSTON — Haskell Smith, 38-year-old white man, who it is alleged fatally shot a Negro man down in "cold blood," will be tried for the offense Monday, October 20, in District Judge Frank Williford's court.

Victim to shotgun blasts, that three witnesses said were fired by Smith, was Joseph Caldwell, a 30-year-old World War II veteran.

Caldwell was killed on August 31 of this year as he walked along the sidewalk in the 1700 block of Lyons avenue. Sat. 10-18-47

One witness told police that Smith fired upon the veteran for no apparent reason. According to the witness, Caldwell was walking down Lyons avenue when Smith came out of a house and aimed the deadly weapon that killed Caldwell almost instantly.

Search Made For Slayers Of Farmer

Times-Dispatch
Richmond, Va.

14c N by W (Va)

Authorities Suspect Three Masked Men

CHATHAM, May 25—A widespread search is being conducted in this area for three masked white men who killed Ernest Gilbert, prosperous 68-year-old Negro farmer, near Gretna last night and removed from his home a safe believed by authorities to have contained approximately $8,000 in currency, bonds and other valuables.

All available State and county police officers and sheriff's deputies were engaged in the manhunt today, but they worked with only meager clues and with little or no success.

According to Sheriff Arch Overbey, of Pittsylvania County, the three men went to Gilbert's home last night and asked for liquor. Upon being told that there was none in the house, the sheriff said Gilbert's wife told him, the men drew pistols and ordered the woman and her 9-year-old child into a rear room of the house.

Two of the men, the woman said, stood guard over the farmer while the third went to the safe, in which Gilbert is said to have kept considerable cash and other valuables.

Gilbert, according to his wife, attempted to reach for his gun when the bandits opened fire. Five bullets pierced his body and he died instantly. 5-26-47 mau

Officers said tracks of an automobile or truck were found in front of the house, evidently made by a vehicle which was backed up to the porch to load the iron safe.

WHITE BANDIT TRIO SLAYS VIRGINIA NEGRO FARMER

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

GRETNA, Va., May 25 (UP).—A prosperous 68-year old Negro farmer was shot to death at his home last night and sheriff's deputies today were looking for three unmasked white men who stole the Negro's safe after riddling him with pistol bullets. Gretna is about 25 miles from the North Carolina border.

14c N/W

The wife and 9-year old child of Ernest Gilbert told state policeman E. B. Archer the three white men came to the comfortable farm home last night, pulled pistols, and herded them into a back room.

They said two of the men then guarded Gilbert in a front room while the third hunted the safe which contained about $8,000 in cash. The wife said Gilbert moved as if to get a gun and the men opened fire on him.

He died almost instantly from five pistol wounds.

Sheriff Arch H. Overbey said he found tracks where the men had backed a car or truck up to the front porch and loaded the safe on the vehicle. Mau. 5-26-47

NAACP SAVES GI FROM HANGMAN

September 26, 1947

Washington, D.C., Sep 25th--The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was notified by the War Department today that one more Negro GI, sentenced to be executed by an army courts-martial, would be spared his date with the hangman as a direct result of intervention by the Association's legal department. The condemned soldier, Pvt. L. Z. Henderson, had been sentenced to be hanged for an alleged murder committed in Viernheim, Germany in 1946.

Press Service of the National Association for the advancement of colored People.

NAACP attorneys had demanded a War Department review of the case following a request for assistance from the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of San Antonio, Texas. As a result of NAACP intervention, the War Department subjected the 26-year-old GI who had served in the army since 1942 to a psychiatric examination which proved that Henderson had been mentally irresponsible at the time of the alleged crime. The death sentence was then set aside. 9-26-47 Friday.

Second Stay Of Execution Granted

14c

Daily World [illegible]

WASHINGTON, D. C.— (NNPA)— Albert Hawkins, 22-year-old convicted murderer, last Tuesday was granted a second stay of execution just twenty-four hours before he was scheduled to die in the electric chair. Sun. 10-19-47

Hawkins and Lawrence Prout, 20 killed a Safeway Grocery Store clerk, John Hall Knight, during a holdup of the store at 1201 First St. northwest, April 13, 1946. President Truman had already commuted Prout's death sentence to life imprisonment.

Robert I. Miller, Hawkins attorney begged District Judge Alexander Holtzoff last Tuesday "not for thirty days, but just to the first of the month. It's only fifteen days. In that time I am sure I can see that distinguisted man, the president of the United State. Ga.

Assitant United State Attorney, Charles Murray said he had no objection to the last-minute delay.

Judge Holtzoff posted the evacuuntil Octber 31, Hallowe'en Day.

Hawkins and Prout were originally sentenced on July 26, 1946, to die October 16, 1946. After the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia had upheld their conviction, a stay was granted them both pending appeal to the President. Mr. Truman rejected the plea made in behalf of Hawkins, who did the actual shooting.

Ninth Reprieve Is Granted Negro Man

News

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. [illegible] (AP)—Lawrence Nathaniel Phillips, convicted Negro hammer slayer scheduled to die in the Kilby Prison electric chair early tomorrow, today had a two-month reprieve. Thu. 12-4-47

Gov. James E. Folsom announced yesterday granting of a stay until Feb. 13 at the request of Phillips' attorney, E. L. Roberts, of Gadsden. Roberts has said he planned to take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court if necessary.

The reprieve was the ninth granted Phillips, who was convicted of beating a Gadsden laundryman to death with a hammer in 1945.

The State Supreme Court and the U. S. District Court last month upheld a Mongomery Circuit Court denial of a habeas corpus petition seeking Phillips' freedom. His counsel sought the petition on grounds that an alleged confession was obtained from the Negro by force.

Negro Granted Seventh Reprieve By Governor

14c Advertiser

Samuel Taylor, convicted rapist scheduled to die in the electric chair this morning, has been granted an additional three-month reprieve, the governor's office announced. Montgomery Ala.

The 21-year-old Negro previously had received six stays of execution from Gov. James E. Folsom. The three-month reprieve was granted pending further court action, Folsom's office said. 14c Fri. 11-21-47

Attorney Nesbitt Elmore, of Montgomery, representing the Negro, said he would ask the State Supreme Court to reconsider its denial of a writ of error coram nobis, through which Elmore sought to reopen proceedings in a lower court.

If the court refuses to rehear the case, Elmore said he would appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The Negro was convicted of raping a 14-year-old girl at Prichard, a Mobile suburb, last year.

1947

Reprieves

14C

Negro Is Granted 35-Day Reprieve

The Advertiser

Tackling his first clemency hearing since taking office, Gov. James E. Folsom debated for six hours yesterday whether to spare the life of a condemned Negro or let him die in the electric chair, and finally ordered a 35-day reprieve. Montgomery, Ala

The decision was announced shortly before 5 p.m. only seven hours before the Negro, Phillip Cobb of Montgomery, was scheduled to pay the death penalty for the fatal shooting of his wife.

The governor said the reprieve until April 11 was issued to give him "further time to study the case." Fri. 3-7-47

Cobb contended in his personal appeal before the chief executive that he shot his wife accidentally while struggling with a man with whom he had been having trouble in March, 1946.

Folsom, facing the life-or-death ordeal for the first time since taking office, listened attentively to Cobb and members of his family plead for mercy, and near the close of the hearing, bowed his head while a kinsman of the convicted slayer prayed.

Later, the governor recalled some of the witnesses for further consultation before making a decision.

The prayer for divine guidance for Folsom and "the state of Alabama" was intoned by N. J. Davis of Birmingham, who said the condemned man was a cousin of his wife. The Advertiser

In sharp contrast to the defendant's calm, dispassionate appearance, members of his family gave way to sobs, especially his mother, Nancy Cobb, and a brother, Mose. Montgomery Ala

Folsom told them in response to their pleas for clemency, however, that "this is not a case of mercy. It's a case of justice. This office is responsible to the people of Alabama and they, through their elected representatives, have said this boy should pay the death penalty." Fri. 3-7-47

The convicted killer's 2-year-old son stood by him during part of the proceedings and Cobb caressed him.

Teen-Age Killers Get Breathing Spell

[illegible] N.Y.

Wed-1-15-47

The Mississippi Supreme Court granted a stay of execution for harles Trudell, 16, and James Lewis, 15, holding there was reaonable grounds for appeal to the J. S. Supreme Court. The Negro oys were under sentence to die riday for the murder of a white wmill operator. The defense contends the all-white jury did not render an unbiased verdict according to civil rights. Wed-1-15-47

Death Is Postponed For Ailing Prisoner

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

Montgomery, Ala., April 15 (AP)—Israel Garrett won't die in the electric chair Friday morning. He has pneumonia.

Governor James E. Folsom granted the Russell County Negro a five-week stay of execution because he is too ill to appear before the Chief Executive to appeal for clemency. A hearing on the plea had been set for tomorow. Wed. 4-16-47

Garrett was sentenced to death for the killing of a member of his own race, Ruby Tolliver.

Condemned Killer Wins Death Stay

Chicago Defender

Ernest Gaither Jr., who was scheduled to die in the electric chair Friday for the murder of Max Baren, a tavern owner, in a holdup Feb. 9, was granted a stay of execution to Oct. p4 Wednesday. Sat. 9-20-47

According to Gaither's lawyer, Assistant Public Defender Johned Brannion, Governor Green granted the stay in order to give the board of pardons and paroles, which meets Sunday, a chance to consider a petition to commute the sentence.

Sentenced For Rape Doomed Man Gets One-Day Reprieve

The Informer Houston, Texas

Sat. 5-3-47

Houston —Huey Wilson, 37, slated to die in the electric chair Wednesday night, in connection with the criminal assault of a white woman here last summer, was granted a 1-day stay of execution Tuesday.

The 1-day repreive was granted to the condemned man because the Huntsville prison farm broadcast was scheduled Wednesday and the execution would have interfered.

Wilson will die Thursday night, in the electric chair instead of Wednesday as previously scheduled.

In the meantime, the Informer received an anonymous letter and phone call from someone Tuesday morning who claimed to have raped the white widow.

The letter, printed in crude printing, said:

"Huey Wilson is innocent, please notify the governor. I am a white man who raped the white woman on Montrose last year. I am worried but hate to confess. Had face blackened." Sat. 5-3-47

The phone call received was to the same effect as the letter.

Wilson was convicted and given the death penalty last June for the criminal assault of the mother of two children; the charges alleging that Wilson entered the widow's home, struck her over the head with a brick, and then proceded to rape her.

The condemmed man was previously scheduled to die April 1, but before the date of execution, Governor Beauford Jester granted him a 30-day repreive.

Two Doomed Men Get Reprieve

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

RALEIGH, N. C.—(NNPA)— Ralph Vernon Litteral of Winston-Salem, and Marvin C. Bell of Yakinvillo North Carolina, who were scheduled to be electrocuted last Saturday for the criminal attack of a 15-year old high school gril, won the right to live a little longer last Friday when Governor Gregg Cherry granted Litteral a reprieve, and Chief Justice, Walter P. Stacy of the North Carolina Supreme Court signed a stay of execution for Bell.

Governor Cherry granted Litteral a reprieve to August 8 after Bell had appealed to the United States Supreme Court. He had previously announced on two occasions that he would intervene the case.

Bell's stay of execution was ordered to give his attorneys time to tsk the United States Supreme Court has refused a new trial for the two men. Thur. 6-26-47

Bell and Litteral were convicted of taking the girl from a dark street near her home in Elkin, North Carolina, last August 3, and raping and beating her on a night ride to Tennessee. The girl was found the next day in a field near Johnson, Tennessee.

Litteral, last Friday signed a will leaving his brain to Bowman Gray Medical School and his eyes to an agency which might use the cornets to give sight to blind persons.

Man Facing Death Sentence Gets Stay Friends Seek Funds To Aid Defense

The Call Fri. 4-25-47

Kansas City, Mo.

An appeal is being made to the public for funds to aid the defense of George Miller, who was sentenced to death by a jury of Miami county, Kas., for the alleged murder of Chief of Police Churchill last February. Miller was granted a stay of execution pending a hearing on the findings of examining physicians, who will tell the Kansas Supreme Cour the extent of his injuries.

Miller was allegedly brutally beaten at the time of his arres at Osawatomie, Kas. He was threatened with being draggec through the street and coercecly and beaten into signing a confession. Churchill was shot fatall as he approached a garage behinc Miller's home in search of him for questioning and arrest on complaint of his wife. Miller wa later found barricaded in a loft of a friend's home, lying near him was a pistol; a posse fired inte the loft until Miller gave up wounded from the gun fire. In a trial it was brought out tha despite the fact that Miller's wif and a deputy approached the garage at the same time the chie did no one saw who fired the shot from the garage.

The case will be argued befor the Kansas Supreme Court in Topeka some time in June. If the appeal or commutation of sentence is lost plans are to take it to the nation's highest tribunal the Supreme Court of the Unitec States. Anyone interested may send funds to the chairman of the George Miller Defense Fund, The Rev. J. H. Thompson, 743 Mass St., Lawrence, Kas. Fri. 4-25-47

Negro Receives Third Reprieve From Folsom

Montgomery Advertiser

Fri. 7/25/47

Samuel Taylor, 21-year-old Negro, convicted of criminally assaulting a white girl at Prichard, Ala., last year, received his third reprieve yesterday from the Kilby Prison electric chair. Montgomery, Ala.

Gov. Folsom announced postponement of the Mobile County Negro's execution date until Aug 22. He was to have been put t death shortly after midnight to night. Fri-7-25-47

Taylor was originally scheduled to die July 13, but the governor ordered a reprieve unti July 18 just seven hours befor he was to have been electrocuted. Later he put it off agair

At a clemency hearing las month, Defense Attorney Ne bitt Elmore charged the Negr has been given the death sentence because of "prejudice in the minds of the jurors."

He said the trial record showed that "little force if any was used" in the alleged attack on the 14-year-old girl and said a lesser penalty would have been ordered if it had not been that Taylor was a Negro. The Montgomery

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Leroy Scott Is Given Reprieve By Governor

Montgomery, Ala.

Montgomery Advertiser

Leroy Scott, 20-year-old Negro who was to have died in the electric chair Friday for criminally assaulting a white girl near Anniston last year, yesterday was given a 30-day reprieve by Gov. James E. Folsom.

Folsom said he ordered the execution postponed until Aug. 29 at the request of Scott's lawyer, Walter Merrill of Anniston, who promised new evidence in the case. Fri. 8/1/47

Scott was convicted of assaulting a 19-year-old Louisville, Miss., girl near the Anniston city dump last Summer. A Negro companion, Lee Curtis Williams, also convicted, was given a life sentence in a companion trial.

The governor's decision followed a clemency hearing.

Negro Granted Second 30-Day Reprieve From Kilby's Electric Chair

Montgomery Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Sat. 8-23-47

Although absent from the state, Governor Folsom yesterday granted a 30-day reprieve to 20-year-old LeRoy Scott, Calhoun County Negro. who was scheduled to die in the Kilby Prison electric chair on Aug. 29. Sat. 8-23-47

In announcing the reprieve until Sept. 26, Executive Secretary O. H. Finney, Jr., said it was granted at the request of the condemned man's attorney, Walter J. Merrill, Anniston.

Merrill, in a letter to the governor, requested a 30-day postponement of the execution because there was "one additional matter" he wanted to discuss with the chief executive before the sentence was carried out. Sat. 8-23-47

Scott was convicted for criminally assaulting a white woman near Anniston in 1946.

Originally scheduled to die on July 25, Scott was given a week's reprieve. He was also given a clemency hearing by Gov. Folsom on July 30, and shortly thereafter he received his first 30-day reprieve, which would have expired Aug. 29.

Prison Farm Trusty Convicted Of Rape Gets 30 Day Stay

Chicago Defender Chicago Ill.

Sat. 5-10-47

By JOHN LeFLORE

RALEIGH, N. C.—Willie Little, prison farm trusty, scheduled to ie in the gas chamber for the lleged rape of a Wake county oman was granted a 30-day reprieve on Monday, to allow a motion for a new trial.

Little was given another chance to live when Gov. R. Gregg Cherry stayed the execution, originally set for April 25.

Parole Commissioner Hathaway Cross said the governor's action was taken to permit the prisoner's lawyer to make a motion for a new trial in view of additional evidence which he said has been found. Sat. 5-10-47

Defense Counsel Brantley Womble would not divulge the nature of the new testimony to be offered in Little's behalf. Unless the motion for a new trial is granted or Governor Cherry intervenes further. Little will die June 6.

He was convicted in Wake County Superior court last December of criminally assaulting Mrs. Fletcher Rook of Meredith Township. The assault was said to have occurred while Little was absent without leave from the Cary prison farm, where he was a trusty. He was serving a 15 year sentence for second degree murder at the time.

Four men have already died in the gas chamber here since Janury, and 18 others, mostly Negroes are in death cells awaiting execution this year.

AlabamanGets 11th Hour Stay Of Execution

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill
Sat 8-23-47

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—A Negro youth was given a respite from a rendezvous with death a scant three hours before he was scheduled to die in the electric chair when Gov. James E. Folsom, who earlier had ordered the prisoner put to death, granted a last-minute reprieve.

The condemned man, Lawrence Nathaniel Phillips, 22, was scheduled to die here in the Kilby Prison electric chair shortly after midnight Thursday for the 1945 killing of a Chinese laundryman in Gadsden. Sat. 8-23-47

Folsom made an announcement about 9 p.m. Thursday that he had decided to grant a stay of execution "only long enough" for defense counsel to apply to the United States Supreme Court for a review of the case. Sat, 8-23-47

Phillips was sentenced to death in 1945 for the hammer slaying of Henry Louie. The colored youth received four reprieves, the last one to permit a sanity commission to examine him.

He, one of 28 children in his family, was said by his attorneys to be mentally incompetent and killed Louie when he discovered that the laundryman was having an illicit affair with his wife, who was working at the Chinaman's laundry. Sat. 8-23-47

The specially appointed sanity commission held that the Negro youth was sane.

Negro Gets Fifth Stay From Chair

The Montgomery Advertiser

Governor Changes Mind Near Zero Hour

Montgomery, Ala.
Fri 8-15-47

Gov. James E. Folsom last night granted a reprieve to Nathaniel Phillips, 22-year-old Negro, scheduled to die in the electric chair at midnight for the hammer killing of a Chinese laundryman at Gadsden.

Folsom announced he had granted the stay of execution to allow defense attorneys to apply to the United States Supreme Court for review of the case. Phillips was sentenced to death in 1945.

This afternoon, the governor turned down a plea for clemency and ordered Phillips put to death at Kilby Prison. Phillips had received four previous reprieves, the last to permit a sanity commission to examine him.

Defense Attorneys claimed insanity during his trial and afterward, and the governor consented to an examination by a specially appointed commission which subsequently reported Phillips sane.

The chief executive said the reprieve would be for about two weeks, just long enough for the Supreme Court to consider the case.

Condemned Negro Gets Fourth Reprieve

Birmingham News

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Sept. 26—(AP)—Leroy Scott, 20-year-old convicted rapist scheduled to die in the Kilby Prison electric chair early this morning, was saved by a fourth reprieve from Gov. James E. Folsom. Birmingham Ala.

Folsom announced yesterday he had postponed the electrocution until Oct. 10 at the request of the Negro's attorney, Walter Merrill, of Anniston. No other reason was given, but Merrill previously had said he had additional evidence to offer. 9-26-47

Scott was convicted of raping a Louisville, Miss., white girl last year near Anniston. Fri.

Merrill, at a clemency hearing before the governor, asked for the death penalty to be set aside because of what he termed "the unusual circumstances of the case."

He said it was not shown conclusively at Scott's trial that he forced the girl to submit to him.

Circuit Solicitor J. J. Cockrell, however, said the Negro had a fair trial and said no element of racial prejudice influenced the court's judgment, which was upheld by the State Supreme Court.

Reprieve Is Granted To Condemned Negro On Eve Of Execution

Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Sept. 5—(AP)—Samuel Taylor, convicted Negro rapist, was granted a reprieve early today just before he was to enter the death House at Kilby Prison. Fri 9-5-47

Gov. James E. Folsom, who refused to spare Taylor's life yesterday, talked with Warden Tennyson Dennis at the prison a few minutes before the electrocution was to take place.

The warden then announced that the chief executive had granted Taylor a two-week reprieve so the case could be taken before the United States Supreme Court.

This was the fifth time the governor had intervened to stay the execution.

Taylor was convicted of raping a 14-year-old white girl last year at Prichard, a suburb of Mobile. The state Supreme Court upheld the death sentence of the 21-year-old Negro.

Attorneys for Taylor have described him as a victim of "racial prejudice" who was not asking mercy but "merely the justice he is entitled to."

Henry Aldridge, Mobile attorney, told the governor at a hearing that the girl's identification of Taylor was doubtful because she previously had pointed out another man as her attacker. Fri. 9-5-47

Another lawyer, Nesbitt Elmore, of Montgomery, argued that the trial record showed "little force if any" was used in the alleged rape and that the jury decreed the death penalty because of "prejudice."

Taylor Case To High Court

Defender
Chicago Ill

Alabama Governor Grants Sixth Reprieve

By JOHN LeFLORE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A legal battle rivaling the widely-known Willie Francis case may be shaping up in Alabama as the result of the filing of a petition Thursday with the State Supreme Court by defense counsel seeking to reopen the Samuel Taylor case.

Taylor, a 21-year-old Mobile youth, convicted and sentenced to death for an alleged attack on a teen-age white girl of Prichard, Ala., was granted a sixth reprieve Thursday by Gov. James E. Folsom. The governor's action allowed militant Defense Attorney Nesbitt Elmore (white), of Montgomery, to move in the state high court for a rehearing of the case. The latest stay of execution will expire in November.

Reveals New Fact

Elmore based his plea on the revelation of important evidence given by witnesses who were fellow-prisoners of Taylor's last year in the notorious Prichard jail, to the effect that a confession was extorted from the condemned youth by means of police brutality.

The sixth reprieve was strongly opposed by Mobile's Solicitor Carl M. Booth, who was in Montgomery Thursday on the eve of Taylor's scheduled execution that night.

At a clemency hearing for the youth held on June 11, defense counsel told the governor that no white man would have been convicted for rape on the kind of evidence that the Mobile jury would send Taylor to the electric chair. Representatives of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the jury's verdict was a serious miscarriage of justice.

Katie Mae Dukes, the white girl who said she was a rape victim in the case, had previously identified another colored man, dissimilar in appearance to Taylor, as her attacker. The man first charged with the alleged crime was able to successfully refute the girl's charge with an alibi supported by his white employer as to his whereabouts at the hour she said she was molested. Then she identified Taylor.

Taylor, just three weeks ago, was snatched from the electric chair by a fifth reprieve just a few minutes before he was scheduled to go to his death.

Career Stickup Man Given Lease On Life

Journal & Guide
Norfolk Va.
9-20-47

CHICAGO, Ill. — (NNPA) — Ernest Gaither, 23, who was scheduled to die in the electric chair last Friday for the murder of Max Baren, liquor store owner, in a holdup Feb. 19, last, was granted a reprieve until October 24 by Governor Dwight H. Green.

Gaither was the writer of the "though I was tough" letter, in which he argued that crime does not pay. He said it took a man with guts to get a job and work for what he wants, but any fool could put a gun in his hands and do wrong. Sat.

Known as "Little Gaither, the Money Waster and Woman Chaser," Gaither said he was a stickup man at the age of 16 and headed a gang of "tough guys," including Earl (Smiley) Parks, Herbert (Hop-a-long) Liggins, Charles (Pretty Boy) Jones, Charles (Colorado Kid) Hill, William (Wilde Bill) Lee, Clyde (Blue) Bradford, and Percy (Wheeler) Bell. Journal & Guide

ALL IN PRISON

All of the men he named as members of his gang except one, are in prison. Parks, the other one, was electrocuted.

Gaither himself served five and a half years in prison. He was released in June, 1946.

Governor Green postponed Gaither's execution, it was announced in Springfield, on the petition of Francis T. MacCurrie, public prosecutor of Cook county, who asked time to prepare a petition for clemency.

Nesbitt Elmore Wins

The Advertiser

Negro 6th Reprieve

Montgomery, Ala.

Samuel Taylor, young Mobile Negro, convicted of raping a white girl, yesterday was given his sixth reprieve from the Kilby Prison electric chair by Governor Folsom. Fri. 9-19-47

The reprieve, good until Nov. 21, came just in time to save the Negro from dying in the electric chair this morning.

It was granted, the governor's office said, because Montgomery Attorney Nesbitt Elmore had filed for a petition for a writ of error coram nobis with the Alabama Supreme Court.

In his petition Elmore said he had new evidence pertaining to the case. 9-19-47

Taylor was convicted on Nov. 19, 1946, for raping a white girl in Mobile County. He was originally scheduled to die at Kilby on June 13 but a series of reprieves has saved him each time.

Alabama Rapist Gets Fourth Stay of Death

Louisville Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Montgomery, Sept. 26 (AP)—Leroy Scott, 20, Negro convicted of raping a Louisville, Miss., girl last year, won his fourth reprieve from Governor James E. Folsom today only a few hours before he was to die in Kilby Prison's electric chair. 14C 9-10-47

Folsom announced he had granted a stay of execution until October 10 at the request of Scott's attorney. Fri

FOLSOM

Atlanta Daily World 10-1-47

Editor, The Advertiser:

Maybe you can help me. Help me figure out what it is that our dear Governor is trying to do to the State of Alabama and the South. Maybe you know how many reprieves have been given to the Negro rapists since he has been in the governor's seat. If there is any crime any more despicable or any more dangerous than a rapist, then tell me who he is. Why, then does the Governor show such sympathy for them? Atlanta Ga.

Can it be possible that he feels his big feet slipping so fast that he is grabbing at the proverbial straw. It really is quite ridiculous and dangerous to have a man with such talents of misjudgment at the head of our state government. Can we not do something about it.

MRS. E. W.
Montgomery. 10-1-47. Sat

Patton Awaits Appeal Verdict

Pittsburgh Courier

MERIDIAN, Miss.—Eddie (Buster) Patton is confined in the County Jail awaiting the outcome of an appeal in his behalf to the Supreme Court of the United States. Sat 3-8-47

Patton was convicted in February 1946 of the murder of Jim Meadors, local operator of a night club, and sentenced to death. The conviction and death sentence was upheld in the State Supreme Court in February of this year and a new date, April 4, 1947, fixed as the date of the execution of sentence.

A few days prior to the latter date, the execution of Patton was stayed by order of the Chief Justice Sydney Smith of the State Supreme Court until June 27, 1947, pending the appeal of the case to the United States Supreme Court which is now in process of being perfected. Sat. 3-8-47

Pittsburgh Pa

District Court Stays Execution Of Holdup Killer

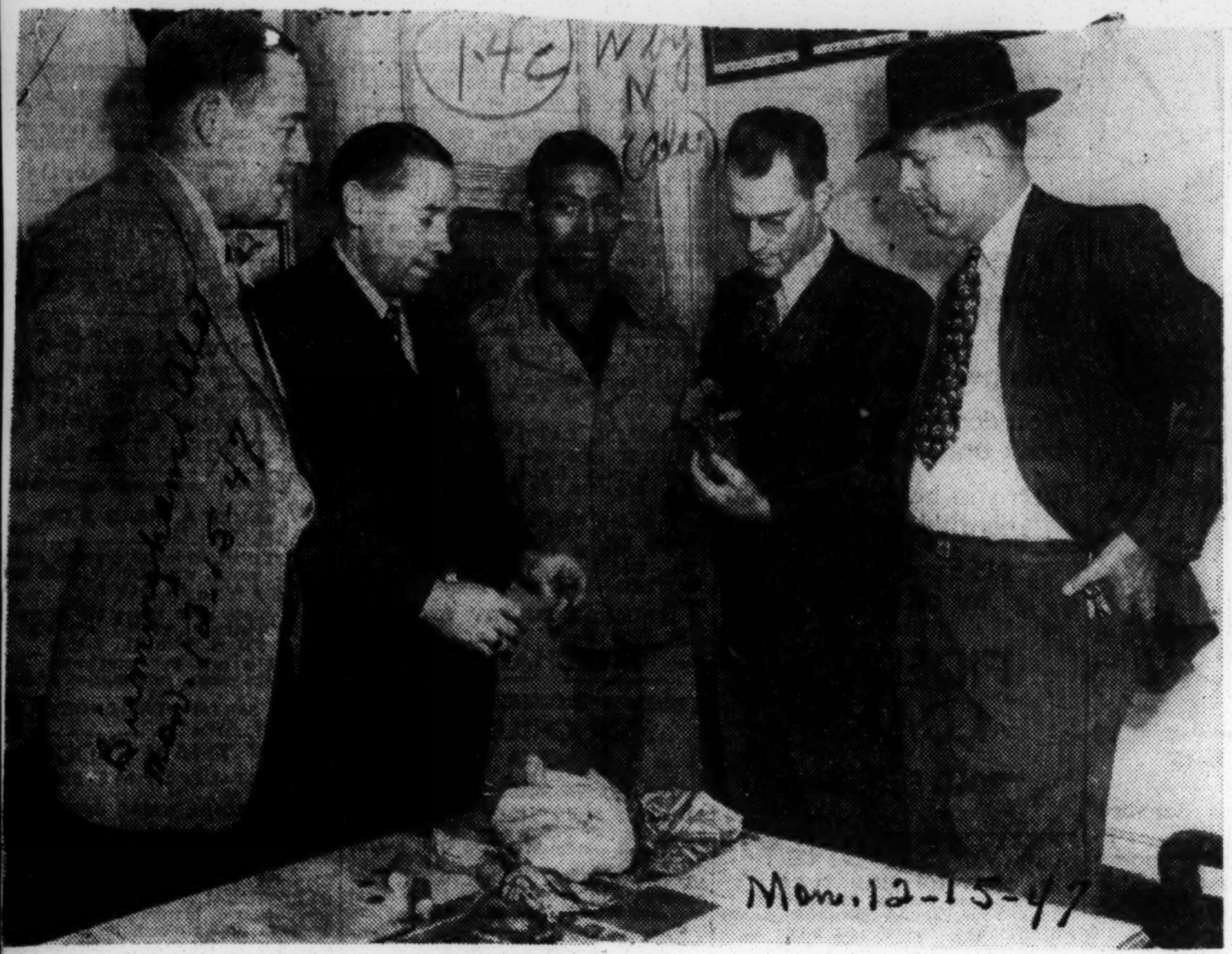
10-25-47

WASHINGTON — Albert Hawkins, 22-year-old convicted murderer, last Tuesday was granted a second stay of execution just 24 hours before he was scheduled to die in the electric chair.

Hawkins and Lawrence Prout, 20, killed a Safeway Grocery Store clerk, John Hall Knight, during a holdup of the store at 1201 First st. N.W., April 13, 1946. 10-25-47

President Truman had already commuted Prout's sentence to life imprisonment. District Judge Alexander Holtzoff postponed the execution to Oct. 31.

14c 1947 Whites by Negroes (Alabama)



14c

W by N (Ala)

Birmingham News

Mon. 12-15-47

Mon. 12-15-47

HELD AS SLAYER—Nehemiah Green, 24, Negro, 1400 Hibernia Street, Pratt City, is shown with police detectives at City Hall shortly after he reportedly confessed the holdup slaying of a Hill grocery store manager. The victim, T. C. Solomon, 61, 1251 Graymont Avenue, West, was stabbed 18 times with an ice pick and shot in the back.

Left to right are Detectives R. A. McMurdo and C. L. Pierce, Green and Detectives W. J. Haley and J. R. Norrell. The gun is the one said to have been used in the Saturday killing. The money bag and loot are shown on the table. Mr. Solomon was buried yesterday in Elmwood Cemetery.

Negro Held In Kilby Prison After Slaying Man Near Greenville

Bham, Ala. News

Mon. 6-30-47

GREENVILLE, Ala., June 30—A Negro was in Kilby Prison for "safe keeping" today following the shotgun slaying Saturday night of Clint Godwin, a white man, near here.

14C W+N

The Negro, Jimmy Lee Goldsmith, confessed orally to shooting Godwin with a shotgun, Deputy Sheriff Eugene Philpot, of Greenville, reported.

Philpot said Godwin's brother, Dudley, was in a local hospital as the result of a pistol wound suffered during the altercation between the Godwin brothers and the Negro. Mon. 6-30-47

The deputy quoted Goldsmith as saying Dudley was wounded when Clint attempted to shoot the Negro.

The reason for the altercation has not been learned, the deputy said.

Negro Says He Killed Theater Man

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

Fri. 7-4-47

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 3.—(AP)—Sheriff Holt McDowell said a Negro employe of W. H. Merritt, theater manager here, confessed orally today he shot the white man to death last Monday.

Sheriff Deputy J. L. Boggan said the Negro, Walter Simmons, 19, led officers to a place on the Merritt Estate where a gun believed to be the murder weapon, was found along with $124 in cash.

The gun, a .38 caliber revolver, was found beneath a rock about 100 yards in the rear of stables adjoining the Merritt home.

Mrs. Merritt had reported the money was taken at the time of the shooting, Boggan said.

The officer said Simmons had been held for questioning since the shooting Sunday afternoon.

Simmons was employed as a stable hand at the Merritt Estate near Edgewood Lake in suburban Homewood. Fri. 7-4-47

Homewood Police Chief E. L. Scott quoted Simmons as saying he shot Merritt three times when the theater operator surprised him in the act of searching Mrs. Merritt's purse.

The officers then took the Negro to the Merritt home, where he showed them the rock under which he had hidden the fatal weapon and the stolen money. Part of the money showed. He had hidden it in a hurry. Fri. 7-4-47

THE GUN USED IN the slaying was brought to the front of the Merritt home. Mrs. Merritt came to the porch of her home, saw the gun and became hysterical. She was taken inside the house.

Later Mrs. Merritt said: "I knew all along it was Simmons. I told the officers it was Simmons."

Frank Merritt, brother of the slain man, said he felt sure the murder weapon would have been found today if the Negro hadn't confessed. Mr. Merritt said he had employed 12 Negroes to scour the wooded area surrounding the spot where the gun was found, and that they were ready to go into that section today.

* * *

WILLARD McCALL, assistant circuit solicitor, said a murder warrant would be sworn out today against Simmons, now being held in County Jail. His cousin, Hall, is being held under $500 bond as a material witness in the case.

Testimony from Hall and Simmons' brother, Jack, developed they had urged Simmons not to go to the Merritt home last Monday afternoon. The Negro; however, borrowed money for bus fare and went out to his former employer's place determined "to get my money."

He claimed the Merritts owed him for work done last week.

OFFICERS FELT THAT a turning point in the case came yesterday morning when Simmons was brought to Ridout's Chapel to view Mr. Merritt's body before the funeral service.

"That's Mr. Harry all right," Simmons said, without emotion.

The officers believe the Negro's poker-faced demeanor, his cold behavior throughout the investigation, was responsible for the failure of the "lie detector" test given him earlier in the week to produce anything conclusive.

Detective Jim Norrell, in charge of the "lie detector" of the Birmingham Police Department, said the Negro definitely showed a reaction when he talked about the shooting, but his "cold" nature made the test "inconclusive."

Sitting in Sheriff Holt McDowell's office in the courthouse yesterday, the young, husky Negro told his full story for the first time:

Fri. 7-4-47

"I WAS IN MRS. MERRITT'S bedroom getting the money out of her pocketbook when I heard a noise in the other room.

"I saw Mr. Merritt standing in the other room and I shot him."

His confession came less than five hours after Mr. Merritt was buried.

"I got that money from Mrs. Merritt's purse," the Negro continued, "and had put it in my pocket when I heard Mr. Merritt in the next room."

Accounting for his movements, Simmons said:

"I left Mr. Merritt's house last Thursday. I didn't go back there until Sunday when Mr. Merritt came to my house and got me.

"Monday morning, A. J. Hall, my cousin, my brother, Jack, and myself went to two picture shows downtown.

"Then we went to Mr. Merritt's theater (the Galax). Jack and myself waited outside while A. J. Hall went into the theater to ask Mr. Merritt about some money which A. J. said was owed him.

"A. J. came out of the theater and said he didn't get no money from Mr. Merritt.

"I told them I was going out to see Mrs. Merritt and ask her for some money she owed me."

* * *

SIMMONS SAID HIS brother and cousin tried to persuade him not to go to the Merritt home that afternoon.

"When I got to the Merritt home," Simmons went on, "I went to the stables and saw Mrs. Merritt there. I asked her about some money. She told me she was busy and to go outside by the track and wait.

"I went outside and walked up to see about a cow that belonged to the Merritts.

"I saw Mrs. Merritt was in the barn and I saw Miss Betty Jane there, too, so I asked another colored boy around there where the cook was. Fri. 7-4-47

"The colored boy, a one-eyed fellow (Dennis Hawthorne), told me the cook had gone to the doctor to take her baby.

"I went to the back door and kinda shook it. Then I went in this door nearest the stables and went into Mrs. Merritt's bedroom. I saw a pistol on the table in there and picked it up.

"I opened a dresser drawer and took out a red pocketbook that belong to Mrs. Merritt. I opened the pocketbook and took some money out of it.

"I heard a noise in the next room and then saw Mr. Merritt in there. That was his bedroom. Mr. Merritt didn't say anything to me. I shot him and he fell."

At first, Simmons declared he fired only one shot. Then he admitted firing three shots. Two shots struck Mr. Merritt in the head, a third went through his chest and lodged in the wall of his bedroom. Fri. 7-4-47

How he was able to leave without being seen after the shots were heard was explained in this way by Simmons:

"Soon as I shot Mr. Merritt, I ran out of the bedroom along the hall and then out the front door.

"I ran away from the house toward the driveway on the left as you leave the house. I then turned and ran up towards the back of the house into the wooded section. I circled back around the two little cottages in the rear of the house."

Simmons said in leaving the house he had put his hands on the walls in the hall, accounting for the smeared fingerprints there. The walls were rough, making it difficult for officers to obtain complete prints.

SIMMONS SAID HE HID the revolver and money under a rock, then entered the feedhouse at the rear of the stables.

"I heard Mrs. Merritt hollering and walked out of the stables and asked A. J. Hall what had happened. A. J. told me Mr. Merritt had been shot and they said a colored man had done it. I had washed my hands and changed clothes when the Homewood police came up to the feedhouse and got me."

Sheriff Holt McDowell lauded the investigation work done by deputy sheriffs and Homewood officers on the case. He said they had worked "hard and persistently."

The officers included Homewood Police Chief E. L. Scott, Homewood Police Officers Ed Smith, N. G. Smith, H. L. Mitchell, Harry Posey; Chief Deputy Sheriff Wilton Hogan, Deputy Sheriffs J. L. Boggan and Clyde Coupland.

Mr. Merritt was buried yesterday in Elmwood Cemetery.

He is survived by the widow; his daughter, Betty Jane; three brothers, Charles H., Frank and John Merritt, all of Birmingham; four sisters, Mrs. Sallie M. Wise, Mrs. Nellie M. Hunter and of Birmingham, and Mrs. C. J. Dougherty Miami, Fla. Fri. 7-4-47

Fingerprints at the home were taken yesterday by John H. McFarland, county fingerprint expert, and C. D. Brooks, assistant state toxicologist. Asst. Solicitor McCall questioned witnesses in the case throughout the investigation.

2 Negroes Held In Sheffield Slayings

Thurs.

14C W+N 8-14-47

TUSCUMBIA, ALA., Aug. 13.—(AP)—Two Negroes were charged today with the shotgun slayings of a Sheffield, Ala., man and woman and moved to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping by Sheriff Lee McCorkle. Advertiser

Victims of the slaying were Benjamin H. Beavers, 28, whose body was found 17 miles east of here Aug. 5, and Mrs. Josephine McKinney, 44-year-old widow, whose body was found in a well 12 miles east of here Aug. 7.

Sheriff McCorkle identified the two Negroes as John Whiteside and Coolidge Bailey. Both were picked up for investigation Aug. 6. Montgomery Ala

McCorkle said the two Negroes "implicated each other in sworn statements." He added that the shotgun used in the slayings was found on information supplied by the two Negroes.

Funeral Held For Hit, Run Victim

The Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery Ala. Sun. 8-17-47

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Aug. 16.—Funeral services for Billie Don Godwin, 12 were held at 4 p.m. Friday at the Tuskegee Baptist Church and burial in the Tuskegee Cemetery. Dr. F. G. Hastings and Rev. Donald McGuire, conducted the services.

Struck by a hit and run driver as he walked along the highway near Boyce Ann Dairy he received fatal injuries last Tuesday night and died before an ambulance arrived.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Godwin, the boy was walking home from the picture show at the time of the accident. Investigating officers said tracks showed that the boy was walking on dirt shoulder of the highway when struck.

The boy lived with his mother and four brothers about four miles out on the Union Springs highway. His father is serving with the Army in Germany.

Arrested next day following an investigation, Aaron Jones, Negro, was being held at the county jail on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death.

Two Negroes Jailed For Slaying Couple

Thur

The Birmingham News

TUSCUMBIA, Ala., Aug. 14—Sheriff Lee McCorkle said today that two Negroes have been charged with the slayings of a Sheffield, Ala., couple and have been moved to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping. Birmingham Ala

Benjamin H. Beavers, 28, and Mrs. Josephine McKinney, 44, a widow, were victims of the slayings. Beavers' body was found 17 miles east of here Aug. 5 and that of Mrs. McKinney in a well 12 miles east on Aug. 7. Thurs. 8-14-47

The Negroes charged with the murders were John Whiteside, 36, and Collidge Bailey, 23. Each, McCorkle said, implicated the other in sworn statements, after being picked up Aug. 6 for investigation.

A shotgun used in the slaying was reported by McCorkle to have been recovered on information supplied by the Negroes. 8-14-47

Mrs. McKinney and Beavers apparently were slain the night of Aug. 4 shortly after they had been driven east of Tuscumbia in a taxi.

The two Negroes were quoted by McCorkle as saying they shot Beavers first. They said they then drove five miles to the well where Mrs. McKinney was shot and thrown in, according to the sheriff, who said no motive was given. Thur

Coroner James Mays said his examination revealed Mrs. McKinney's body had been bruised and her clothing torn before being thrown in the well. Thurs 8-14

Negro In Athens Jail In White Man's Death

News

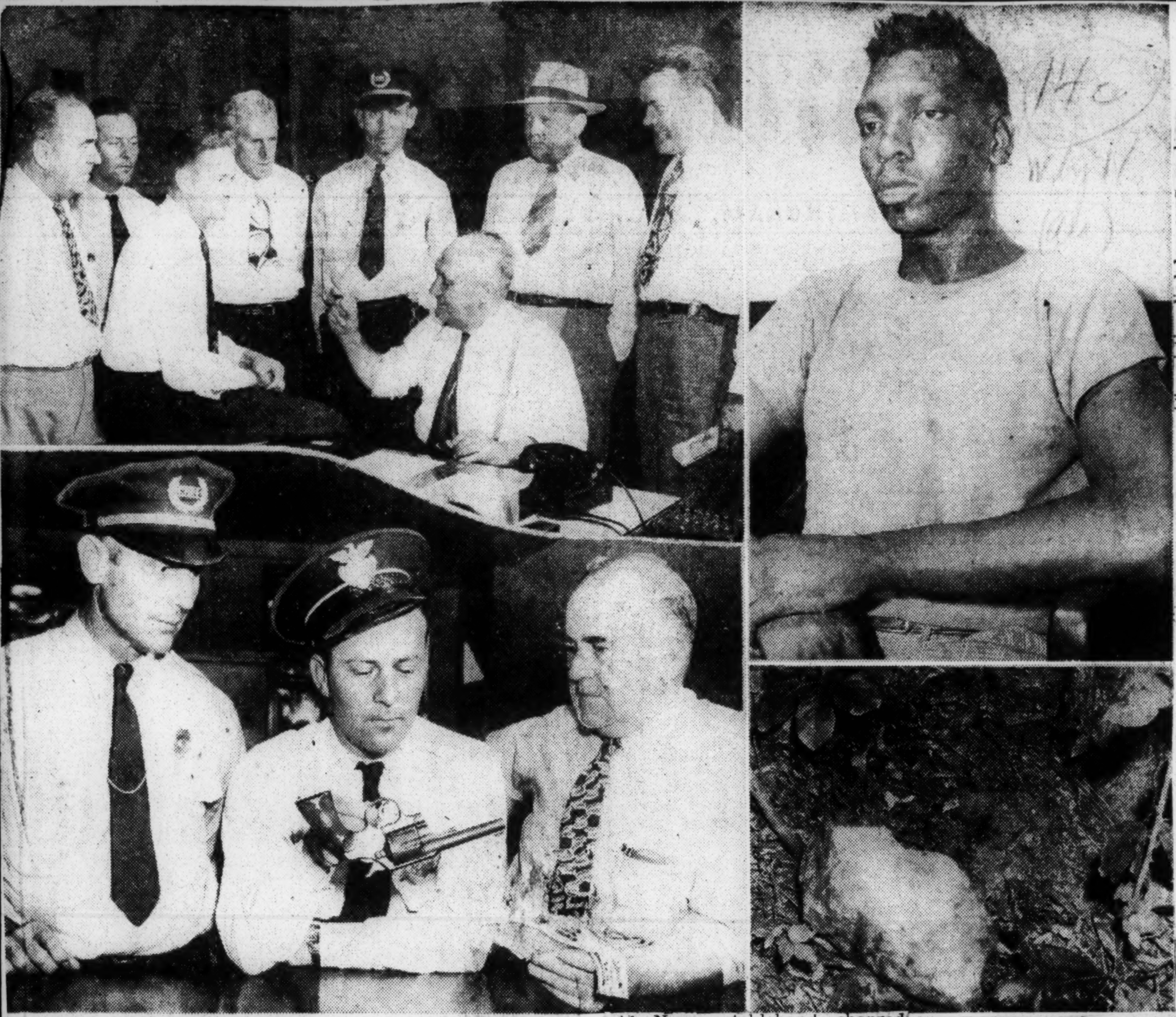
Birmingham Ala.

ATHENS, Ala., Oct. 7—(AP)—A 42-year-old Negro farm tenant was charged with first degree murder and lodged in Limestone County Jail today in the slaying of Harry Powers, 40, on a farm south of here yesterday.

The Negro, Simon Bass, was arrested shortly after Powers was shot to death. He was found at his home, near the scene of the slaying, by Deputies W. R. Moore and Almon Powers and offered no resistance. Tue. 10-7-47

Deputy Moore said Bass contended he fired in self deefnse. The officer said Powers and Bass "had trouble" Saturday, but there was no definite information as to its cause.

A first degree murder warrant was sworn out by a brother of the slain man.



140 W. N. (Ala.)

MERRITT MURDER SOLVED—Above are final scenes in the solution of the mystery that for four days shrouded the killing of W. H. Merritt, theater manager.

At the upper left are law officers who figured in the investigation that led to a full confession yesterday afternoon by Walter Simmons, 19-year-old stable hand at the Merritt estate. Left to right are Deputy Sheriff J. L. Boggan, Homewood Police Officer Harry Posey, Homewood Police Officer N. G. Smith, Homewood Police Officer H. L. Mitchell, Homewood Police Chief E. L. Scott, Deputy Sheriff Clyde Coupland, Chief Deputy Sheriff Walter Hogan and Sheriff Holt McDowell.

Walter Simmons is seen at the upper right, just following his confession of having committed the murder late Monday afternoon.

At the lower left Chief Scott and Officer Posey examine the death weapon, while Deputy Sheriff Boggan holds the $124 Simmons stole from Mrs. Merritt's purse before killing Mr. Merritt.

At the lower right is the spot to which Simmons led the police yesterday afternoon where he had hidden the gun and money.

Fate Of Alleged Negro Killer In Hands Of Jury

Advertiser

144 W. N.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 22. —(AP)—A circuit court jury began deliberating late today the case of Walter Simmons, Jr., 19-year-old Negro stablehand charged withe the murder of his former employer, William Harry Merritt.

Montgomery, Ala.

10-23-47

Deputy Solicitor Willard McCall asked for the death penalty.

Simmons is accused of shooting Merritt, Birmingham theater operator, to death June 30, during an alleged robbery at the Merritt estate.

14 W. N. (Ala.)

The Negro took the stand earlier to repudiate a confession the State charged he made at the time of his arrest. He said he signed the confession after four days of questioning, during which he was beaten by police officers.

10-23-47

Sheriff Holt McDowell, County Commissioner Earl Bruner, and several officers denied from the stand that the Negro was beaten and said no marks of violence were found on his face or head.

Ga. Farmer Convicted Of Murder In 6 Minutes

Journal & Guide

By Associated Negro Press

CARROLTON, Ga.—Eddie Brown Jr., 20-year-old farmer, was convicted of murder by an all-white jury last week after only six minutes' deliberation. The verdict carries the death penalty.

Norfolk, Va.

Brown was accused of murdering George Andrew Boyd, 28, a white tenant farmer, despite his plea that he was shooting at a rabbit and that Boyd was hit accidentally.

Brown narrowly escaped a mob on the night of June 30, which sought to take him from the county jail. Only the opposition of two deputy sheriffs and a night patrolman saved him.

Sat. 8-2-47

Brown's attorney's appointed by the court, immediately stated that they would appeal.

Young Cops' Relentless Hunt Pays Off

News

Birmingham, Ala.

A relentless search by two city officers, Prentiss Wilhite and Clifton Tucker, today had landed A. R. Naff, 19, Negro, in jail on a murder charge.

The officers said Naff had been positively identified by relatives of Joseph M. Wright, 22, 4240 Jackson Street, Inglenook, as the Negro who stabbed Mr. Wright to death the night of Nov. 22.

"That's him all right," F. C. Ramsden, brother-in-law of the stabbing victim, told the officers early today. "I'd know that peculiar walk of his anywhere.

"He also has the identical build of the Negro I saw running from the scene after the stabbing. That Negro was wearing a blue coat just like the one this fellow has on."

Thurs. 12-4-47

MRS. RAMSDEN, sister of the stabbing victim, also expressed the belief that Naff was the man she had seen running from the scene.

The two young officers said they had obtained a description of the wanted man from Mr. and Mrs. Ramsden soon after the slaying. They were also told by the Ramsdens of the "peculiar walk" the slayer had.

News

"We learned this suspect had been loafing around a filling station at night and sleeping there," the officers said. "He was unable to give any account of his movements the night of the slaying. He has denied any connection with it, however.

Birmingham

"His own people had chased this Negro from home," the officers said, "because of his prowling around at night and 'getting into trouble.'"

Ala.

THE VICTIM, an overseas World War II veteran, had been married only a short time before he was killed.

Thurs. 12-4-47

He was walking home from the car stop when he discovered a Negro man near the stairway leading to his living quarters in a garage apartment.

As Mr. Wright walked toward the man, police said, the Negro ran. The young veteran chased him. He caught up with the prowler at 43rd Street and Jackson Street, Inglenook. He grappled with the man, who stabbed Mr. Wright and fled. The victim died less than an hour after being stabbed.

The Negro was jailed on a murder charge about 3 a.m. today. Homicide Detectives R. A. McMurdo and W. J. Haley assumed charge of further investigation in the case.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (Arkansas)

Two Deputies Killed; Negro Brothers Held

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Feb. 10—(AP)—Two Negro brothers were held without formal charge in an undisclosed jail today after two special deputy sheriffs were shot to death and one of the Negroes was shot in the arm at Altheimer, Ark., yesterday afternoon.

Jefferson County Sheriff Garland Brewster said Albert Wilkerson, Negro, Noble Lake, Ark., had signed a statement that he shot Cletus Bryant, Cornerstone, Ark., and C. W. Winston, Altheimer, both about 25. Albert's brother, Willie, was shot in the arm. Mon. 2-10-47

Brewster said Albert Wilkerson declared one of the white men opened fire after they had stopped the Negroes for fast automobile driving and he returned the fire.

The sheriff said Bryant's brother, Archie, who was with the two other white men, told him one of the Negroes fired first. Archie Bryant was not injured.

Brewster said Cletus Bryant and Winston had been issued deputy sheriffs commissions though not regular members of his force and had been assisting the Altheimer marshal, Pink Booher. The News

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ningham News

SHE WAS KILLED—Forrest City, Ark., police are holding a Negro, Willie Lee Duke, for the slaying of Mrs. Ethel Ellis Boyd (above), taxicab operator and driver. Mrs. Boyd's body was found in a ditch, her throat severed. A sheriff's posse captured Duke and are holding him in an undisclosed jail. Sheriff A. R. West said Duke gave statement that he killed the woman. (Associated Press wirephoto.) 5-23-47

14c 1947 Whites by Negroes (D. C.)

Man Slays 2, Shoots Others In Wild Fray

WASHINGTON, May 16—(AP)—A Negro lawyer went into the Municipal Court Building Friday, shot one Bar Association official to death and wounded another, then killed a policeman and wounded a guard who were pursuing him.

He himself was shot four times and captured. And in between the separate shootings he dashed in and tried to see his lawyer.

All this in 10 frantic minutes.

The shooting, police said, started over a demand by the lawyer that he get back the $125 he had put up as an entrance fee to the District of Columbia Bar Association.

Sgt. Walter Perry, of the Homicide Squad, said the Negro told him he was Daniel Williams, Jr., 40, a former Jackson, Miss., lawyer. His injuries were not considered critical.

The dead: Hubert Estes, 51, a policeman, and Ray Devendorf, 65, a clerk for the District Bar Association's Committee on Admissions and Grievances.

The wounded, both described as in "fair condition:"

George W. Dalzell, 69, Executive Secretary of the Grievance Committee and an expert on Admiralty law, and Cecil Claig, 45, a guard.

The shooting started in the Municipal Building and ended at the corner of Seventh and F Streets, N. W., two blocks away. The chase was within five to seven blocks of the nation's Capitol.

Here's the story police pieced together:

Col. Walter C. Clephane, head of the Grievance Committee, told them Williams had asked for permission to practice law here, and had put up the customary $125 deposit.

In the course of the routine investigation, Clephane said, it was discovered that Williams had been disbarred in Mississippi. Williams then wanted the investigation stopped—and his money back, Clephane added.

The Committee refused on the grounds the investigation was not complete.

It apparently was anger over this refusal, police decided, that brought Williams to the Municipal Building Friday.

He found Clerk Devendorf and Atty. Dalzell alone in their third-story office. After the shots rang out, a Negro court messenger, George Clemons, saw Williams come out, ring for the elevator, and reload his gun.

While the messenger watched, too unnerved to raise an alarm, Dalzell staggered out into the hall. Williams shot at him again, as the wounded Dalzell tried desperately to make himself small against the marble wall.

Forcing the elevator operator to take him down, Williams was noticed by Claig, the guard. But Claig had no authority to arrest, so while he was calling for help, Williams dashed out and into the near-by office of Perry Howard.

Howard, the National Republican Committeeman from Mississippi, is a well-known Negro attorney.

Constitution

But Howard was not in, and once again Williams raced into the street.

By this time Guard Claig had obtained aid.

Claig was shot as he tried to knock the gun from Williams' hand. Estes was shot as he tried to help Claig.

Atlanta, Ga.

Several detectives and policemen were on the scene by this time and there the chase ended—underneath a scaffold put up for workmen installing a wooden awning.

Sgt. Perry, who rode with Williams in the ambulance to the detention ward of Gallinger Hospital, said that other than giving his name, Williams had nothing to say.

At Jackson, Miss., records showed that a Negro lawyer named Dan Williams, Jr., was disbarred Feb. 25 from the practice of law in Mississippi. The action followed the filing of a petition alleging he tried to represent that a suit for divorce was uncontested when he actually knew that an answer to the divorce petition had been filed. Sat 5-17-47

Peeved Negro Starts Shooting; Three Wounded

The News
Birmingham
Alabama

Running Battle Begins In Downtown Area Of Capital Metropolis

WASHINGTON, May 16—(AP)—A patrolman and a law association official were killed and three others wounded today in a gunfight started at the Municipal Court House by a disgruntled bar applicant.

The dead were identified by police as:

Hubert Estes, a patrolman.

Ray Devendorf, 65-year-old clerk for the District of Columbia Bar Association's committee on admissions and grievances.

The wounded reported by police:

Atty. George W. Dalzell, of Chevy Chase, Md., 69, executive secretary of the grievance committee.

Cecil Claig, a guard on duty at one of the doors of the courthouse building about five blocks from the capitol.

An unidentified Negro, whom police described as the unsuccessful applicant for admission to law practice.

* * *

THE FIRST SHOTS were fired in Devendorf's office on the third floor of the building which houses municipal courts.

Persons in the building a tthe time said the Negro went to the office and demanded return of the fee he had paid when the sought admission to the bar.

An argument ensued. Devendorf was shot in the face.

Then, the assailant turned to another part of the office toward Dalzell who was shot in the shoulder and face.

Eyewitnesses said the Negro walked calmly into the hall.

A Negro court messenger, George Clemons, said the man stopped and reloaded his gun.

* * *

DALZELL JUST THEN staggered to the hallway.

Bystanders said the gunman fired wildly in the general direction of Dalzell.

Then, the gunman took an elevator to the ground floor and walked quickly out of the building.

Walter Bramhall, Municipal Court clerk, saw him then. Suspicious, Bramhall ran after him.

"The Negro was walking rapidly out of the building with his left hand holding his gun in his coat pocket," Bramhall told reporters afterwards.

Bramhall said he called to police and bystanders for help.

Estes and Claig gave chase, firing as they ran. Two blocks from the building, the fugitive turned and shot back.

Both pursuers were hit.

Tue 5-16-47

* * *

THE COURT BUILDING is about five blocks from the capitol building and a block off Pennsylvania Avenue, which runs from the capitol through Washington's downtown business section past the White House.

Disbarred Attorney's Case Postponed

14c W by N (D.C.)

Lawyer Charged With First Degree Murder

Journal And Guide Sat. 6-7-47
Norfolk, Va.

By NNPA News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The arraignment of Daniel Williams, disbarred Mississippi lawyer who ran amuck here on May 16, killing two men and wounding two others, last Thursday was continued for two weeks by United States Commissioner Needham C. Turnage.

Williams, 48, is accused of first degree murder of Policeman Hubert Estes and Ray Devendorf, 65-year-old clerk, in the office of the District Bar Association's admissions and grievances committee, Municipal Court Building, Sixth and E streets, northwest.

George W. Dalzell, secretary of the committee, and Cecil Claig, a building guard, were also shot by Williams, who fled to the offices of Howard and Hayes, attorneys, where he asked for Perry W. Howard, Republican national committeeman for Mississippi.

SHOOTS POLICEMAN

Finding out that Mr. Howard was engaged in the May-Garsson bribery trial, Williams hurried out of the office and at Sixth and F streets, northwest, ran into Policemen Estes and Claig. In an exchange of shots, he shot and killed Estes and was himself in turn wounded by Estes.

Williams has been in Gallinger Hospital recuperating from his wounds since the shooting. He was brought to Turnage's office last Thursday in a patrol wagon, his hands cuffed behind him. Sat. 6-7-47

Turnage continued the case to allow Williams an opportunity to obtain counsel.

Irate Lawyer, Who Slew 2, Improved

Afro-American

WASHINGTON

The condition of Daniel Williams, who was admitted to Gallinger Hospital last Friday in a critical condition, was reported "much improved" late Wednesday by hospital authorities.

Baltimore, Md.

Williams, a native of Jackson Miss., apparently went beserk over his failure to win admission to the District bar, and killed two men and wounded two others before being injured himself in an exciting exchange of gunfire in downtown Washington. Sat. 5-31-

Little Known Here 47

Having resided in Washington only a short period of time, few persons admitted personal contact with the disbarred Mississippi lawyer. Several attorneys and neighbors remembered seeing him at intervals, but they admitted having little to say to him.

As far as neighbors knew, Williams was a bachelor. He was soft spoken and a neat dresser.

He was recommended to the D.C. bar by Perry W. Howard, attorney, who said that he supported him on the strength of letters from Jackson, Miss., attorneys.

D. C. LAWYER PLEADS "NOT GUILTY" TO CHARGES

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

WASHINGTON, D. C.— (NNPA) — Dan Williams, Jr., 38-year-old disbarred Jackson, Miss,. lawyer, pleaded not guilty last Friday to charges of first degree murder and assault. Wed. 7-23-47

A district of Columbia grand jury last Monday returned an indict ment charging him with murder in the first degree in two cases.

Williams fatally shot Policeman Hubert W. Estes, of the First Precinct, and Ray E. Davenport, clerk for the Committee on Admissions and Grievances of the District Bar Association. Wounded were George W. Dazell, secretary of the commit tee, and Cecil A. Claig, a building guard at he Municipal Court build ing.

Although he had been disbarred from practicing law in Mississippi because of alleged misconduct in a divorce case, Williams came here and applied for admission to the District of Columbia bar.

The committee learned of his disbarment and recommended rejection of his application. Williams went to the committee offices in the Municipal Court building and demanded refund of his application fee of $125. When it was refused, he became enraged, witnesses said. Wed. 7-23-47

He shot Dalzell and Davenport in the Municipal Court building and then fled to the offices of Cobb Howard and Hayes, where he asked to see Perry W. Howard, Republican national committeeman for Mississippi. He was told that Mr. Howard was engaged in the May-Garsson bribery case.

He ran out of the law offices and ran into Estes and Claig at Sixth and F streets northwest, a half block away. In an exchange of shots with the policeman, Williams him self was seriously wounded and the officer killed.

Declare Lawyer Held For Murder

American

Suffers Insanity

Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON — Dan Williams, disbarred Mississippi attorney, held on charges of first degree murder and deadly assault in the Judiciary Square shooting spree of last May 16, has been declared insane by two St. Elizabeth physicians. Dr. William G. Cushard, an Dr. Edgar D. Griffin declared in an affidavit filed in District Court that Williams was suffering from dementi praecox. 9-12-47

Grand Jury Indicts Lawyer For Murder

Norfolk, Va.

Sat. 7-26-47

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA) —Dan Williams Jr., 38-year old disbarred Jackson, Miss. lawyer, pleaded not guilty last Friday to charges of first degree murder and assault.

Journal + Guide

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Sat. 7-26-47

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ot Guilty,' Lawyer Says

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburg, Pa. Sat. 7-26-47

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Sat. 7-26-47

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TRIAL A 'PLOT' SLAYER CLAIMS; RULED INSANE

Chicago Defender, Ill.

WASHINGTON—A District Court lunacy jury, which deliberated **only 35 minutes**, Wednesday decided that Dan Williams Jr., 40, charged with fatally shooting two men and wounding two others, is insane. **District Judge** Edward Curran committed him to St. Elizabeth's hospital.

Sat. 11-15-47

After hearing the testimony of several psychiatrists, Williams, a **disbarred** Mississippi lawyer, took the stand to declare that the story **of the slaying** was a conspiracy against him and that they had never **actually** occurred. Williams, doctors said, suffers from a mental disorder involving a persecution complex and delusions of grandeur.

4 (Georgia) Killers Sought By Posse In Piedmont Area

Montgomery Adv. Wed. 1-15-47

PIEDMONT, ALA., Jan. 14—(AP)—Four Negro convicts who shot and killed a motorist after escaping from Rome, Ga., county prison camp were surrounded tonight near here but were believed to have escaped.

Deputy Sheriff Harry Davis of Floyd County, Ga., said the four were jumped at the cabin of one of the escapee's uncles. He said there was speculation they were headed for Gadsden, Ala.

Another convict, a white man who took part in the same escape, was not with the Negro men, Davis said. 1-15-47

Night Police Officer J. C. Braswell said between 20 and 30 Georgia and Alabama State Highway Patrolmen and sheriff's deputies had surrounded the area, densely covered by underbush.

Braswell said a Negro woman living in the area reported that five men came to her house about 5 p.m. and demanded that she fix their supper, but that they ran from the back door when they heard an automobile approaching on a nearby road.

The officer quoted her as saying four of the men were Negroes and the other a white man and that they were armed with two pistols.

At Gadsden, The Alabama Highway Patrol office said the posse was awaiting arrival of bloodhounds from Georgia before attempting to beat their way into a section where the five were believed surrounded.

The convicts escaped early today after overpowering two Floyd County prison guards.

Sheriff Mark Horton said four Negroes and one white man broke away from the camp after overpowering the guards and taking two pistols and a sawed-off shotgun. They stopped the car of Joe Chandler, Livingston, Ga., cotton gin operator, shot Chandler through the neck and fled in his car.

Montgomery Advertiser 1-15-47 Montgomery

Sheriff Horton said Odell Brown, one of the Negro convicts, approached one of the guards and asked if he could get some wood for a fire. The guard gave his consent and turned his back. Horton said Brown hit the guard and grabbed his gun. The other convicts overpowered the second guard and grabbed a pistol and shotgun. 1-15-47

Four Georgia Convicts Who Killed Motorist Captured At Piedmont

14c-W.N. (Ga.)

PIEDMONT, Ala., Jan. 17—(AP)—Four Negro convicts, accused of killing a motorist after commandeering his car in their escape from a Rome, Ga., prison camp, surrendered to an armed posse near here yesterday.

Birmingham News Fri. 1-17-47 Birmingham, Ala.

The group was surrounded in a clump of brush. Members of the posse fired several shots over their heads and the Negroes stood up with their hands high.

The convicts were identified as Odell Brown, L. P. Campbell and Odell Johnson, all long-termers, and Jeff Ike Hill, serving one year for arson. A white man, Ed Lee Parker, 23, who escaped with them Tuesday, was taken into custody at Chattanooga, Tenn., Wednesday night.

Sheriff Mark Horton, of Floyd County, Ga., said they were accused of halting an automobile driven by Joe Chandler, of Livingston, Ga., shooting him to death and making off in his car. The auto was found abandoned near Piedmont.

Four Convicts Are Captured Near Piedmont

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Fri. 1-17-47

Posse Surrounds Negroes Charged With Murder Of Motorist In Georgia

PIEDMONT, ALA., Jan. 16.—(AP)—A posse of armed residents captured today four Negro convicts charged with slaying a Georgia motorist after escaping from a Rome, Ga., county prison camp Tuesday.

The four surrendered on Reservoir Hill, a heavily wooded area about one mile west of here. They had been spotted about 30 minutes previously.

The posse closed in on the group hiding in a clump of brush, fired four shots over their heads, and the Negroes stood up immediately and held their hands over their heads. One was reported carrying a loaded pistol. The Advertiser

Another prisoner who escaped with the four Negroes, Ed Lee Parker, 23, a white man, was taken into custody in Chattanooga last night. Montgomery Ala.

Members of the posse who made the actual capture were listed as O'Neal Kerns, 27; Joe Bartlett, 20; W. W. Austin, 42; James Simpson, 27, and Frank Coogler, 40, all residents of the area. Fri. 1-17-47

Returned To Rome

The Negroes were brought to the city hall here where they were turned over to Alabama and Georgia highway patrolmen who had been engaged in the hunt in this area for the past two days. They were scheduled to be returned to Rome immediately.

The convicts were identified as Odell Brown; L. P. Campbell, 30, serving 20 years for burglary; Odell Johnson, 41, serving 10 years for forgery, and Jeff Ike Hill, 24, serving one year for arson.

Sheriff Mark Horton, of Floyd County, Georgia, said they were accused of halting an automobile driven by Joe Chandler, cotton gin operator of Livingston, Ga., shooting him to death and making off in his car. The automobile was later found abandoned near here.

Members of the posse quoted the convicts as saying they had been on the move continually since they were flushed from the home of a relative of one of the escapees Tuesday night. Bloodhounds were brought here from Carrollton, Ga., but the trail was lost during a heavy rain.

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3 Brothers Held Here After Still-Slaying Hunt

14c-W.N. (Ga.) Tues. 6-24-47

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Three Negro brothers, suspects in connection with the June 17 killing of U. S. Revenue Agent Melvin John Clark, were jailed in Fulton Tower Monday in default of bonds totaling $15,000, following their arrest in Banks County and arraignment before U. S. Commissioner Frank A. Holden on a technical charge of illegal distilling.

The trio was captured early Monday only a few miles from the spot where Clark was felled by a fusillade of bullets as he prepared to raid a hidden liquor still near Homer, Edwin J. Foltz, Special Agent in charge of the Atlanta FBI office, said.

The Negroes were listed as Charlie (Red) Cather, 31; Eurice Cather, 28, and Demost Cather, 20, all of Homer. U. S. Atty. Ellis Mundy said "further investigation by the FBI and the Department of Justice may result in further charges." Tues. 6-24-47

Holden disclosed that three warrants for "unlawful assault and killing of Melvin Clark, agent of the Alcohol Tax Unit of the U. S. Treasury Department," have been sworn out here in the name of "John Doe," but have not been served.

The arrest, made about 8 a. m. at the country farm home of the suspect's parents, four miles north of Commerce, on the Homer-Commerce Road, culminated one of Georgia's biggest manhunts. For six days, State, county and federal officers, including sheriffs of seven counties, directed the search through woods and swamplands of Northern Georgia.

The brothers were captured by Federal Alcohol Tax Unit Investigator Duff L. Floyd, of Jasper, and State Revenue Agents James M. Poole, of Jasper, and James M. Bishop, of Rome.

At the hearing before Holden here, the brothers admitted working an illicit still near the scene of the shooting but did not admit participating in the shooting. James D. Ayres, State Revenue Agent, of Cornelia, was the only Government witness who appeared. Tues. 6-24-47

Ayers, who was following Clark through the woods when the Federal agent was ambushed, testified he saw the three brothers running from the vicinity shortly thereafter.

Two Suspects Arrested In Flaming Torch Death

The Constitution

14c-W.N. (Ga.)

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

LEXINGTON, Feb. 6—Bizarre details of the in-the-back shooting of W. R. ("Old Doc") Cofer, semi-invalid farmer, whose kerosene-drenched body was set afire after his house had been ransacked for money, were told by law enforcement officers here Thursday.

The officers announced the solution of the mystery death of Cofer, whose charred remains were found in the ruins of his Oglethorpe County home Jan. 26, after talking an hour with Lauren Porter, 39, Negro sawmill hand.

Porter and a white man, whose name was not revealed, are now under arrest in an undisclosed jail. The charge is murder, GBI Investigator Lewis Clyburn said.

Revealing details of the crime, the Negro said the slaying was planned when he and the white man heard "Old Doc" had received $70 for some meat he had barbecued the day before his death.

"We called the old man out, and asked him if he wanted some whiskey," the Negro told Clyburn, Patrol Sgt. Theron Aldridge and Oglethorpe County Sheriff Carl Broach, the officers said, "and when he turned around he got shot." Fri. 2-7-47

Constitution State News Service.

Porter said Cofer lurched about, asked them, "What did you shoot me for? I've never done anything to you," and then painfully hobbled on his crutches toward the wall for his shotgun.

He fired once and then collapsed, the Negro stated.

After ransacking the home, the two set fire to the body with the aid of kerosene, and left it to be consumed in the flames which destroyed the entire shack.

Sifting ashes of the home revealed only a few coins, Clyburn said, but aroused suspicions when neighbors said Cofer had been carrying at least $5 on his person at the time of his death. 2-7-47

Sheriff Broach said the aged farmer died within 200 yards of the spot where Lewis Brown, postman, was found mysteriously slain a year ago. Police are reopening an investigation of the case and are questioning the two suspects in the Cofer case.

Manhunt Ended For Brothers Suspected In Agent's Death

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

A six-day manhunt ended on Monday with the arrest of three Negro suspects after the killing of a United States revenue agent. Special agent in charge of the Atlanta office, said the capture was made in Banks county only a few miles from the spot where Agent Melvin John Clark, 41, fell under a hail of bullets June 19 as he spotted a hidden liquor still.

14c-W.N. (Ga.) Tues. 6-24-47

The three suspects, all brothers, were captured by federal alcohol tax unit Investigator Duff L. Floyd, of Jasper, and State Revenue Agents James M. Bishop, of Rome, and James M. Poole of Jasper.

The suspects were listed as Charlie Gather, 31; Eurice Gather, 28, and Demorest Gather, 20.

The trio is in Atlanta in custody of federal authorities under $5,000 bond each after a preliminary hearing before U. S. Commissioner Frank A. Holden. They are on a charge of working in an illicit still near the scene of the shooting. Hearing on a murder charge against the men has been postponed by the commissioner.

The suspects, according to iflicers had gone to their parents' home for food. They surrendered without resistance. The trio had been living entirely by picking blackberries dewberries and plums and "Looked as if they were very hungry," the officers said. Tues. 6-24-47

All three suspects are reported to have police records in Banks and Madison counties.

Murder Charged In Waynesboro Girls' Death

Atlanta, Ga Constitution

14c WhN (Gen.)

Tues. 6-24-47

Constitution State News Service.

WAYNESBORO, June 23—Following a recommendation by a Burke County Coroner's Jury, a murder warrant was issued Monday against the Negro driver of an automobile which Friday night was involved in an accident resulting in the death of Annie Katherine Hargrove, 16, of Waynesboro, Sheriff O. J. Cliett reported. Tues. 6-24-47

The accident, which occurred at Briar Creek, six miles north of here, "was caused by Jimmy Campbell attempting to pass the car in which Miss Hargrove was riding and deliberately cutting into it and knocking it into the bridge," the Coroner's Jury ruled Sunday. "We, the jury, recommend he be held for murder," Coroner R. L. Edenfield said.

Meanwhile, the condition of the girl's brother, Dr. Roy B. Hargrove, Jr., 22, was reported as "grave" at the University Hospital in Augusta where he was taken following the accident. Also injured, but not as seriously as the young doctor, were Judson Thompson, 18, of Waynesboro, and Margaret Ann Heaton, 21, of Augusta, both of whom are in the hospital.

Sheriff Cliett said the Negro was being held in Waynesboro jail.

Carroll Jury Indicts Brown

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Wed. 7-23-47

A Carroll County Grand Jury indicted Eddie Brown, Jr., 28-year lod Negro farmer for murder Tuesday in the slaying of George Andrew Boyd, 28, a farmer of the Sandhill section of Carroll County, on June 27.

Judge Samuel J. Boykin set the trial set for Thursday, July 24 at 10 a. m. with Solicitor General Luther M. Wyatt of LaGrange, Ga., directing the prosecution.

The case involved national reaction after Brown was captured on June 29, following the slaying of Boyd while hunting rabbits.

The youth claimed the slaying was accidental and that he was so frightened that he rolled Boyd's body into the river, took Boyd's coupe to Carrollton where he traded it for a Plymouth which was later recovered near Burnt Creek. The death weapon was also recovered. Wed. 4-23-47

Arrest of the youth came on Sunday July 20 when he was surprised while sleeping in a tenant house near Sand Hill.

Petitions from all over the nation scored the holding of the trial at Carrollton, because of the racial tension in the area. Judge Boykin ruled a hearing on the charge when adequate protection for the prisoner was promised by the Georgia State Patrol.

Immediately after the body of the slain man was found an attempt on the life of the youth was made by a mob which formed for the purpose of lynching Brown, who said the shooting was a accidental.

Grand Jury To Study Carroll Murder Case

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Sun. 7-20-47

Constitution State News Service.

CARROLLTON, July 19 — The Carroll County Grand Jury has been summoned by Judge Samuel J. Boykin of the Coweta Judicial Circuit to meet here next Tuesday to consider an indictment for murder against Eddie Brown, Jr., Negro, in the recent slaying of George Andrew Boyd in the Hickory Level community. Atlant

Brown is being held in jail in Atlanta, having been taken there after a group of citizens attempted to break into the Carroll County Jail to obtain him for lynching the night of June 30. Const.

Calling up of this case without awaiting convening of a new grand jury this fall and the decision for an early trial was made by the Carrollton judge after he received petitions Friday asking for the extra session by the Grand Jury. The petitions contained names of over 1,000 people from all parts of the county. Sun. 7-20-47

Adequate protection for the Negro at the trial has been ordered by Acting Gov. Thompson and will be supplied by the Georgia State Patrol.

Trusty Dies In Capture Of Fugitive

14c WhN (Gen.)

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution State News Service.

TALBOTTON, Oct. 7—Talbot County Sheriff James H. Ferguson was overpowered and shot by an escaping prisoner here Tuesday, and later a trusty handling bloodhounds in pursuit of the fugitive accidentally was killed by a member of a posse which recaptured the prisoner. Wed 8-47

Sheriff Ferguson was only slightly wounded in a scuffle with the prisoner who seized the Sheriff's revolver and fled. Ferguson fired at the fugitive with another pistol and then personally directed the search for the escapee, named as Roscoe Carson, 22, Negro.

Slain by gunshot wounds when Carson was brought to bay several hours later in a swamp five miles southwest of town was Walton Turner, 28, Negro life-term trusty from the Muscogee County Prison Farm. 10-4-47

Following a coroner's inquest which returned a verdict that Turner "came to his death by gunshot wounds," Sol. Gen. Ed Wohlender, Jr., of the Chattahoochee Circuit, ordered J. E. Hawkins, prominent Talbotton lumberman, arrested on a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Hawkins, a member of the posse, promptly posted a $500 bond, and Sol. Gen. Wohlender said the current Talbot County Grand Jury probably would be reconvened this week to investigate the fatal shooting, the jailbreak and burglary charges on which Carson had recently been arested.

Apparently Turner was slain while he was struggling with Carson over possession of Sheriff Ferguson's pistol. The trusty, with his bloodhounds, reportedly had come upon the fugitive and then attempted to take the gun away from him after a vain attempt to persuade Carson toward peaceful surrender. Carson, the target of the posse's gunfire escaped injury, although earlier reports had said he, too, was hit.

Turier died of gunshot wounds in the neck. He was described by Muscogee County Warden as a model prisoner.

Carson was returned to the jail at Talbotton.

A posse of more than 100 peace officers and special deputies from five Georgia Counties took part in the chase after the prisoner had overpowered Sheriff Ferguson, seized the Sheriff's revolver, and shot the officer in breaking from the jail. 14c WhN

Wounded slightly in the thumb and hip, Sheriff Ferguson fired at the fleeing prisoner with another pistol and then directed the search during the morning hours.

A restless crowd of about 100 persons milled around the jail at Talbotton when Carson was back in custody. 10-8-47

Sheriff Ferguson said he learned Carson had tried to escape Monday night by digging his way out of the concrete jail with a poker and shovel, concealing the excavation with a blanket.

Ferguson said he discovered the attempt when he entered the prisoner's cell Tuesday morning to give him his breakfast and point out chores for him to do. He said Carson suddenly seized his .45-calibre revolver, and in the struggle "the trigger got pulled when he was wrestling with me. I hit him with a blackjack once, but with the shock of the shot he got the pistol and got away."

News of the jailbreak spread rapidly. State Highway Patrolmen blocked all roads into and out of Talbotton, and Sheriffs from Taylor, Marion, Muscogee and Meriwether Counties joined the posse.

Bloodhounds were brought from Taylor and Muscogee Counties, but there was some delay in picking up the scent because of a persistent drizle.

AFTER NINE YEARS

A Storybook Finish In Shotgun Slaying

Atlanta Constitution

Two Atlanta detectives wrote a storybook finish Tuesday to the shotgun slaying of a white store owner here nine years ago. 10-20-47

Det. M. V. Moss and Sgt. L. T. Bullard revealed they finally had located a 39-year-old Negro named Oscar Morgan in an Indiana prison where he is serving a 20-year sentence for criminal assault.

Morgan was indicted here Feb. 1939, with three other Negroes for murder in the slaying of T. W. Adcock. Adcock was killed during a holdup of his store, Jan. 7, 1938, at 306 Laurel Ave., S. W., from which the holdup men got $4.

Dets. Moss and Bullard were within an ace of locating Morgan several times during their nine-year search.

In 1939, the detectives heard Morgan—whom they knew only from a description — was in Detroit. They made two trips to Michigan, but could not find him.

In 1940, they went to Youngstown, Ohio, on a tip Morgan was working there, but the Negro eluded them. During the war, the detectives heard that Morgan had joined the Army and had been sent to France.

Again in 1945, they discovered Morgan was working for the City Sanitation Department in Miami. They rushed to Florida but missed Morgan again.

Finally, last week they received a tip Morgan was in Indiana. With the help of the FBI and fingerprint records, they located the Negro in the Indiana prison.

The Detectives now are checking to see if Morgan can be brought here for trial. If not, they say, Morgan will stand trial once he gets out of ail jon the criminal assault sentence.

Meanwhile, the three other Neghoes involved in the holdup were found and brought to trial in 1941. John "Son" Jenkins and Charlie "Baby Charlie" Anderson died in the electric chair, while James Williams received a life sentence.

Ironically, Anderson, like Morgan, also was found when in custody of the law. He was discovered while serving a sentence on a Fulton County prison farm.

According to Moss and Bullard, Morgan entered the Adcock store holding a loaded shotgun. He handed the gun to Anderson and rifled the cash register of $4. When Adcock told the Negroes there was no more money, the gun was fired, hitting Adcock in the shoulder and back. He died the next day in Grady Hospital.

Negro Family Held In Farmer Killing

~~Ellaville~~

14c WhN

ELLAVILLE, Ga. — (ANP) — Five members of the Ingram family here are being held in separate jails for safekeeping on a charge of killing a 64-year-old white farmer, John E. Stratford, according to Sheriff Edgar Devane. The members of the family are Sammy, his mother, Mrs. Rose Lee Ingram, and his brothers, James Wallace and Charlie. Another brother, Jackson, is being helf for his own protection against possible mob violence, although he was not present at the time of the slaying. Oklahoma, Okla.

Devane said that Stratford had apparently been struck over the head with his own rifle in the course of a dispute about a trespass on his cornfield by stock of the Ingrams. Stratford was hit also with a hoe and a hammer. Sat. 11-15-47

Devane said Sammy Ingram admitted that he struck the farmer so hard with the hammer that he had to pull it from Stratford's head. Sat. 11-15-47

Negro Truck Driver Admits Second Killing

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 20 (AP)—Robert C. Watts, 25, Negro city truck driver, indicted yesterday on a first-degree murder charge in the shotgun slaying of an Indianapolis woman, was reported by Sheriff Albert C. Magenheimer today to have admitted he had fatally stabbed a second woman.

11-20-47

Magenheimer said that Watts admitted the knife-slaying three weeks ago of Mrs. Mabel Merrifield, 68-year-old wife of an Indianapolis attorney. On Tuesday state police said Watts signed a statement admitting the shotgun killing last week of Mrs. Mary Lois Burney, 39, wife of Herschell Burney, Indianapolis food broker.

Tues.

Two Arrested In Slaying Of Woman

Courier-Journal

Connection With Case Kept Secret By Police

Louisville, Ky.

Mon. 12-15-47

Two Negroes were arrested yesterday in connection with the fatal bludgeoning of Mrs. Laura E. Adams Thursday in an appliance store at 2004 W. Market where she was a clerk.

Identified by police as William Smith, 22, of 2404 Cedar, and Henry Roberts, 35, of 502 S. Sixth, the men were booked on vagrancy charges pending investigation. Police did not disclose in what way the men were connected with the case. Meanwhile, 14 detectives continued an intensive search for clews in the neighborhood of the store.

Mon. 12-15-47

Nine-year-old Dorothy Whalin, 116 N. 20th, who said she saw a Negro carrying a radio run from the store after she saw him talking to Mrs. Adams, viewed the two along with several other men in the showup yesterday. Results of the showup were not announced by police.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (Maryland)

(14c) W by N (Md)

Five Pool Dollars to Aid Brother in Seaman Killing

The Afro-American, Baltimore, Md.

Citizens, Agencies Back Simmons in Fatal Wounding of White Suspected Arsonist

Sat. 10-25-47

BALTIMORE

Five brothers from North Carolina pooled their dollars this week to bail out of jail another brother who had been incarcerated on charges of killing a white seaman while exercising his Constitutionally guaranteed right to protect his home. Sat. 10-25-47

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a part of the Bill of Rights, sets forth the right of a man to be secure in his home.

The jailed person was Carnell Simmons, 27, honorably discharged from the famed 25th Infantry, and an adopted Baltimorean of 12 months standing.

Early Saturday, Simmons fired a well-directed bullet through the forehead of a white seaman whom he observed lurking in the flaming doorway of a three-story dwelling, "The Colonial House," at 713 W. Fayette St. Afro-American

Simmons, his wife, an expectant mother, and two other families had moved into the house a few hours earlier amid sneers and resentful looks from neighboring hillbilly whites. The block had been all-white previously.

On Tuesday, he was released under $3,500 bail for a future hearing. Baltimore, Md.

Though advised by his lawyer, Joseph Rosenthal to be careful of what he said, Simmons told a reporter on Wednesday, he didn't feel badly over what had happened and would do the same thing over again if necessary.

Rapid Action

"Everything happened so quickly, I'm still a bit hazy about the exact order of things. But I do know my home was on fire, my wife had run out half dressed, and a white man crouched in the ventibule. Sat. 10. 25-47

"When I went to the door and couldn't get out, I returned to the middle room where someone handed me a revolver. I stepped out into the hallway and fired two shots at the figure.

"All I could see was the head and shoulders of the man, so I cut loose; then went back to the room where I was when police arrived."

Ex-Army Gunner

The clean cut, solidly-built ex-Army machine gunner, who served more than a year in the Pacific,

closed his account of the incident.

He is glad to be out of jail, hopes to be completely cleared when the case comes to trial, doesn't want to relive the experience, but if pushed to it—

Though not familiar with the famous Dr. Sweet case of Detroit (1925), Simmons, a somewhat slow talker, but fairly intelligent conversationalist, confessed he had always felt that a man's home was his castle. Sat. 10-25-47

The Supreme Court upheld this contention when Dr. Ossian O. Sweet, defended by the nationally famous criminal lawyer, Clarence Darrow, was tried for fatally shooting a white mobster after an irate crowd stormed his home in an all-white community.

On Wednesday, Simmons prepared to return to the scrap metal plant where he has been employed since coming to Baltimore.

He and his wife are temporarily sharing the home of a brother at 837 Vine St., but plan to move as soon as a suitable place is located. They do not plan to return to the Fayette St. house.

There were no reprisals or repercussions in the block this week. An investigation disclosed that colored families live in Vine St. and Fairmount Ave. on either side of Fayette St. and also in the 800 block of Fayette St.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (Mississippi)

Mississippi Boys Granted Reprieve

Daily World ATW 14c

Chief Justice Sydney Smith of Mississippi Supreme Court granted the appeal of James Lewis, 15, and Charles Trudell, 16, two youths who were sentenced to die in the electric chair, to the U. S. Supreme Court and ordered a stay of execution until March 20. Atlanta, Ga.

The boys were convicted of the slaying of Harry McKey, a saymill operator. Fri. 1-17-47

Fiance of girl, 12, held for robbery-murder

Los Angeles, Calif. Tribune Sat. 8-2-'

MEREDIAN, Miss. — A 20-year-old Negro has allegedly signed a confession to the murder of a 70-year-old Kawanee white farmer, giving as his reason that he wanted to get funds to marry a 12-year-old girl. The girl is held as a material witness.

The alleged killer, Riast Cooper, said he toow $300 from the farmer, Ira Ellis. Cooper was turned in by his own stepfather, Dave Tubbs, and is being held in the county jail here for safekeeping. Sat. 8-2-47

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (New Jersey)

Youth, 22, Held in Furnace Murder

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 7-17-47

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., July 16 (UP).—James Gibson, 22, arrested here after an automobile chase, was held for New York police after admitting that he had killed a man in New York early today.

Police said Gibson confessed the fatal stabbing of Harold Keppler, 36, a Paterson, N. J., advertising executive and ex-Army lieutenant, whose body was found in a furnace in the Harlem tenement where Gibson lives.

Gibson reportedly met the ad man at a West 135 St. nightclub, from where they went directly to Gibson's room. The 22-year old handyman at the Harlem tenement said Keppler and he had a few drinks and the Paterson executive refused to leave when requested, the police said. It was then he stabbed Keppler, the police stated he told them.

According to officials of the Manhattan Rubber Co. which employed Keppler, he was a man who enjoyed a 'good time.' Thurs. 7-17-47

Keppler's body was found at 6 a.m. by Ernest Williams, superintendent of 207 W. 147 St. when he went into the cellar to fire his hot water furnace.

A knife was found in the basement near the furnace into which Keppler's body had been thrust. His wallet was found in the backyard of the building and in the next yard police found a blue shirt apparently worn by Keppler. It was riddled with knife cuts.

An attempt had been made to burn Keppler's body, police said.

Gibson's arrest followed the broadcasting of an alarm by New York police for a Buick in which two radio car policemen had seen the white man and a Negro parked. Inspector Fink, of the New Jersey Motor Police, picked up the alarm and spotted the car on a road near Perth Amboy, N. J.

Farmhand Is Accused; Woman's Body Found

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

Hightstown, N. J., Oct. 12 (AP)—State police today said the decomposed body of Mrs. Kathryn Hazel, 43-year-old Applegarth housewife missing from her home since last Sunday, was found in swampland underbrush

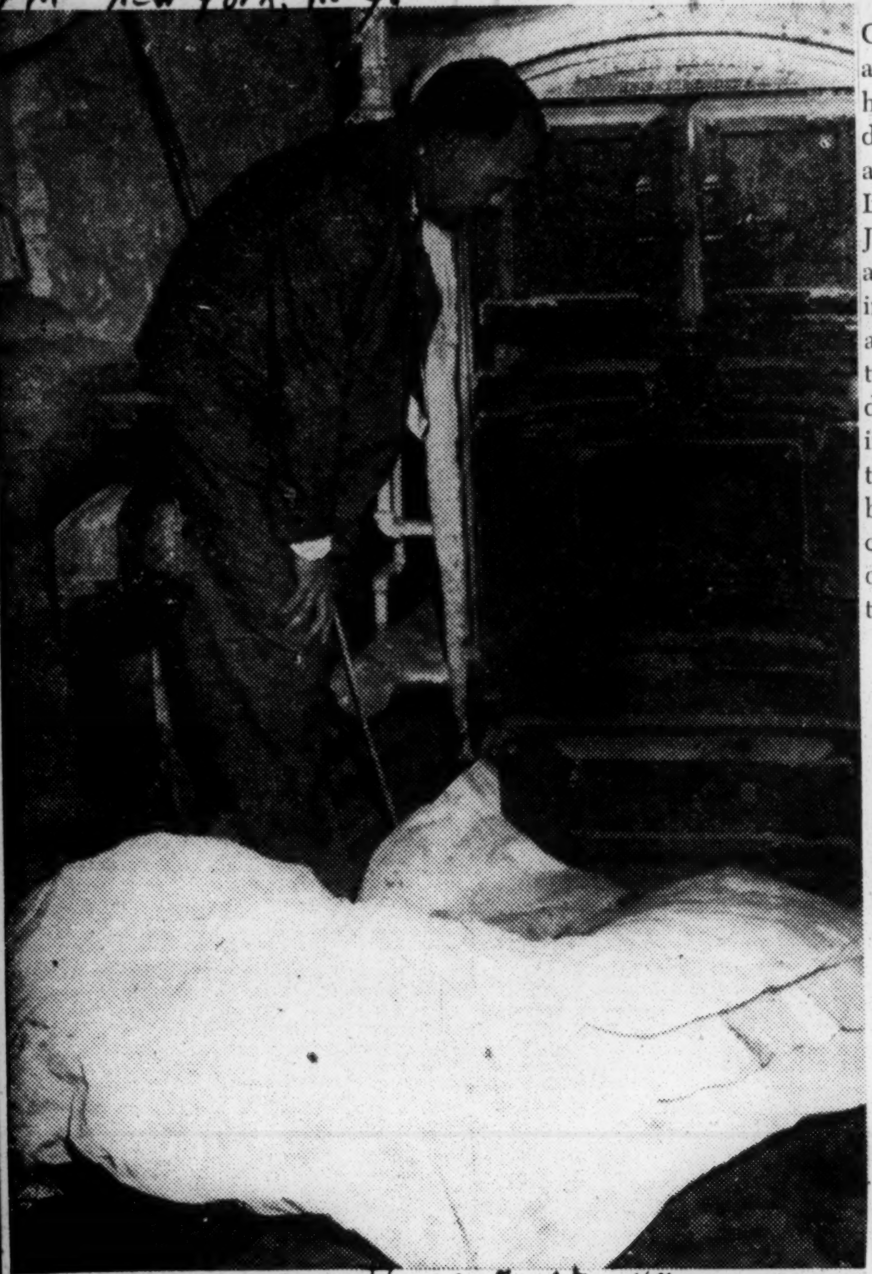
today and that a farmhand would be charged with murder in connection with the death.

Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor James S. Wight and State Police Capt. William J. Coughlin said Chosie "Redcap" Hopkins, 33, a Negro, had been arrested and would be arraigned on a murder charge. 10-13-47

10-13-47

Auto Violation Traps Killer Suspect

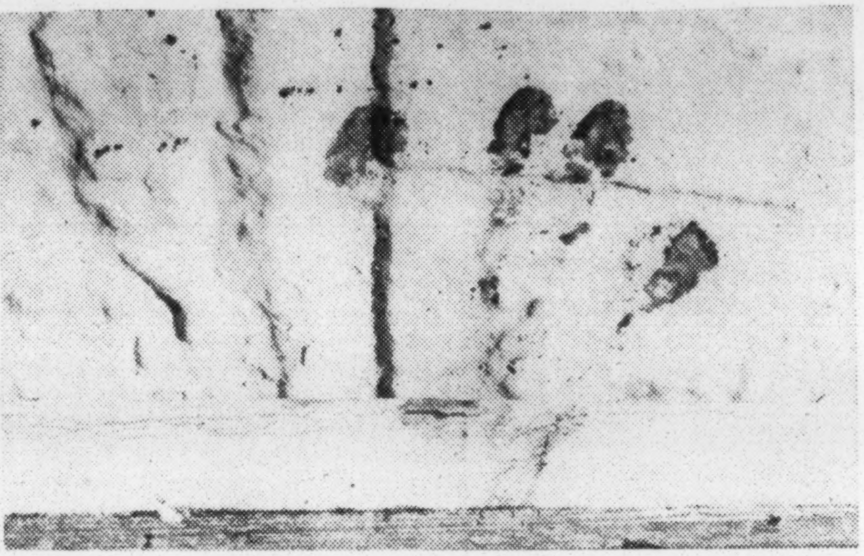
PM New York, N. Y.



Thurs. 7-17-47

A cop guards Harold Keppler's sheeted body.

About 6 a.m. yesterday Harold C. Keppler, 34, of Passaic, N. J., advertising executive for the Manhattan Rubber Co., was found murdered, part of his body stuck into a cold furnace at 207 W. 147th St. Less than 30 minutes later William James Gibson, 22, a handy man at that apartment house, was driving through Perth Amboy, N. J., and committed a minor traffic violation. Police attempted to flag him down, but he raced away. Arrested in New Brunswick, he was sentenced to 290 days. Police found blood in the car he was driving, called New York police, got news of the Keppler murder, talked to Gibson, said he confessed.



The bloody imprint of a hand stains the whitewashed wall near the furnace into which Gibson allegedly tried to stuff the body.

Photo by John Albert, PM

Thurs. 7-17-47

The victim, Harold C. Keppler, ex-Army lieutenant, who was wounded in Europe where he served in the Artillery.

A cop leads Gibson into New York police headquarters. Gibson, 22, is quoted as saying he cut Keppler's throat in a fight after Keppler made improper advances. Gibson said they met in a Harlem bar.

Associated Press Wirephotos

Says Narcotics Caused Downfall

Okla. City, Okla.

The Black Dispatch

OSSINING, N. Y., July — (NNPA)—Before going to his death in the electric chair at Sing Sing prison last Thursday night, Ward Beecher Caraway, 22 years old, told prison attendants that narcotics were the cause of his downfall.

He was put to death for the murder of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan in her home at Flower Hill, Long Island, July 24, last. After shooting Mrs. I ogan, Caraway, a butler-chauffeur on a neighboring estate, shot and attacked Miss Marjorie Jeanne Logan, Mrs. Logan's daughter.

His attorney, James C. D. Murray, cited Caraway's narcotic addiction in making an appeal to Governor Thoms E. Dewey for clemency last month. Sat. 7-19-47

On his final day of life the slayer received a visit from his wife, Mrs. Marie Caraway of Port Washington; wrote a letter to his mother, who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, and read the Bible and other religious books. He also received spiritual consolation from Rev. Dr. Luther K. Hannum, Protestant chaplain. 7-19-47

Bludgeon Slaying Of Girl Is Solved

Montgomery Advertiser

NEW YORK, Sept. 9.—(AP)— Wed. 9-10-47

The four-month-old bludgeon slaying of Selma Graff, 15-year-old Brooklyn girl, was solved today, police said, with the arrest of San (Tito) Williams, 18, a Negro laborer, who reenacted the crime in a dramatic scene at the girl's home. Montgomery, Ala.

Mrs. Pauline Graff, the victim's mother, who was away when her daughter was slain, seized Williams by the throat at the reenactment and screamed at him, "why did you kill my little girl?" She then fell in a faint.

Women neighbors carrying brooms and mop handles jammed the sidewalk outside the Graff home and shouted "murderer" at Williams when he was led away, but no attempt was made to attack him. Wed 9-10-47

Deputy Chief Inspector William J. Whalen said Williams signed a statement admitting the slaying. He was charged with homicide and held for grand jury action.

Assistant District Attorney Wililam S. Perlman said Williams told police he entered the Graff home bent on burglary when the girl awoke, screamed and clawed at him. He said he then struck her "on the head many times" with an iron bar. Perlman said.

Wed. 9-10-47

QUIZZES MAN HELD IN DAUGHTER'S DEATH

Mrs. Pauline Graff (extreme left), mother of a 15-year-old Brooklyn girl killed last April 20, grasps Sam (Tito) Williams (wearing checked shirt), 18-year-old Negro laborer, and screams: "Why did you kill my little girl?" The Negro is reenacting the slaying in the Graff home in Brooklyn. Watching are a detective (background), and Assist. Dist. Atty. William S. Perlman.

Right, Mrs. Graff falls to the floor in a faint, and her daughter-in-law tries to revive her. Detectives hold Williams. Police said the mysterious bludgeon slaying of the girl, Selma Graff, was solved with the arrest of Williams. (Associated Press wirephoto.)

~~The [illegible]~~

The News

Birmingham, Ala.

Fri. 9-12-47

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (North Carolina)

Search for Woman Killer Widened in N. Carolina

14c

Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

LUMBERTON, N. C., March 10—(UP)—Police pushed a widening search Monday for a transient Negro farm worker accused of fatally stabbing a white farmer's wife and leaving her blood-stained body on a blazing haystack pyre.

The body of Mrs. Frank Roberts, her clothing disheveled from a terrific struggle, was dragged from the burning haystack by members of her family who saw the blaze from a near-by church where they had attended Sunday evening worship.

She had not been attacked, but officers said her clothing indicated she died trying to protest herself.

Tues. 3-11-47

Policeman W. L. Price said a Negro known only as Johnny Jones, about 30, a happy-go-lucky migratory worker, was being sought throughout the flat pinewoods and farming territory of Southeastern North Carolina.

One Negro suspect was arrested in Wilmington but Sheriff W. C. Britt, of Lumberton, could not identify him as Jones.

Mrs. Roberts, about 38, stayed home Sunday night when her family went to the small rural church near by. When the service was over, they saw the glow of the fire and rushed to the field in time to drag her body from the flames.

Deputy Sheriff A. T. Ward said the assailant apparently went to Mrs. Roberts' home and attacked her. Her dungaree coveralls were pulled down below her waist, and her clothing was otherwise disarranged.

She had been stabbed three times in the neck, apparently with a pocket knife.

There was evidence of a terrific struggle all the way from the Roberts' modest farmhouse, across a highway, to the haystack.

Bloodhounds trailed the attacker to a Negro house near by, where the frightened occupants told officers Jones had changed his clothes there and soaked his feet in turpentine to throw the dogs off his scent. The hounds lost the trail but the search continued.

Tues. 3-11-47

Constitution

Price said feeling was high, especially in the farming community 10 miles from here where the crime took place, but that he saw no signs of possible mob violence.

Jones had been in the community only a few weeks, working as a field hand for one of Roberts' neighbors.

Atlanta, Ga.

Lumberton is the seat of Robeson County. The County has a heavy Negro population and also a large number of Indians.

Negro On Way To Face N. C. Murder Charge

Columbia Record

Columbia, S.C.

Thurs. 9-4-47

MARTINSVILLE, Va., Sept. 4—(AP) — Seventeen-year-old Junior Thompson was on his way back to Rockingham county, North Carolina, today to answer charges of murder in the bludgeon slaying of Tom Price, an 81-year-old farmer who last year testified against Thompson in a burglary charge.

Thompson, a Negro, was captured near here yesterday after bloodhounds had tracked him into a wooded area in the suburb of Fieldale.

Police instituted a widespread search for Thompson, a fugitive a year from the North Carolina road gang, with which he was serving a term for burglary, after Price was slain in his bed at his home near Price, N. C., during the early morning hours of August 25. Price's wife, who told authorities she entered her husband's room when she heard "a scuffle," later identified Thompson as the assailant through pictures from state police files.

Henry county authorities, alerted to be on the lookout for the Negro youth, said they were "tipped" yesterday that he might be staying in an abandoned house near Fieldale.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (Pennsylvania)

Defends Home, Negro Youth Is Charged With Murder

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Special to the Daily Worker

Fri. 6-27-47

PHILADELPHIA, June 26.—A 16-year-old Negro boy is being held on a murder charge growing out of an attack by a gang of young white men on his family. The assault took place at the B'rith Achim Hall, 11th and Spruce, where Oscar Haley, lives and works as caretaker.

On Saturday night June 8, Haley stopped some young men from taking hall property following wedding party they had attended. With the aid of his four sons, Haley succeeded in getting the group out of the hall. However, they broke through a side entrance

A fight followed as the Haley's defended the Hall and their home. One of the white men later died in the hospital. Despite evidence of forced entry by the white gang, the police have refused to arrest any of them. Fri. 6-27-47

However, Oscar Haley and his four sons are under charges ranging from assault and battery to murder for Edward, the youngest. The Haley Defense Committee has the support of the local Civil Rights Congress, the NAACP, and other groups.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (South Carolina)

Boy Confesses Shotgun Slaying Of White Man

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

CONWAY, S. C. — (ANP) — A small debt was the motive for the shotgun slaying last month of a white Horry county farmer, according to Sheriff C. E. Sassar here last week. The victim was Ben H. Justice. The slayer was 15-year-old Leburn Bessent.

Justice was discovered dead in his home near Little River last Feb. 26. The youth, who was arrested the same day on suspicion, was reported to have confessed that he stood outside the slain man's window and fired one shot into the room, hitting the man in the head. He said he killed the man over $1.50 which the former owed him. Fri. 3-21-47

Bessent said that he performed various jobs around the dead man's house and yard, and that on the morning of the slaying, the victim had given him a shotgun and told him to shoot some crows. After doing this, he returned to the house and asked for the $1.50 which was due him. Justice refused to give him the money and then kicked him and chased him off the premises with a 22 calibre rifle.

Returning, the youth said, he stood at the window and fired a single shot at the farmer's head. The boy is being held in Horry county jail. According to Sheriff Sasser, a murder warrant would be sworn out against him.

Dr. A. M. Townsend's Statement On Tragic Accident Given Globe

14c W by N Tenn

Nashville Tenn.

Globe, Fri. 8-29-47

Dr. A. M. Townsend, Secretary of the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention (Inc.) gave the Nashville Globe an exclusive statement with regard to the tragic accident in which he was involved near Winchester recently, on Tuesday of this week. It is the first authentic statement from the well known Baptist leader and is as follows.

August 26, 1947.

In view of the publicity given to the recent unfortunate accident near my old home at Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee, I now think it proper to make a public statement in connection therewith.

All matters in connection with this accident have been adjusted to the entire satisfaction of all parties involved, the law enforcement agencies, and the Courts of Franklin Co. There are no cases pending against me either criminal or civil growing out of this event. Fri. 8-29-47

Signed, A. M. Townsend.

Clear Townsend of Auto Death

Afro American

Baltimore Md

NASHVILLE—Manslaughter charges lodged against Dr. A. M. Townsend, secretary of the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., which grew out of a fatal automobile accident two months ago, have been dismissed, it was learned here this week. 9-13-47

Dr. Townsend in a statement, published in the Nashville Globe, asserted: "All matters in connection with this accident have been adjusted to the entire satisfaction of all parties involved, the law enforcement agencies and the courts of Franklin county. There are no cases pending against me either criminal or civil growing out of this event."

14c

A white pedestrian was killed when an automobile allegedly driven by Dr. Townsend struck him on the highway near Dr. Townsend's old home at Winchester, Tenn.

Indict Man Who Shot 3 And Killed 1

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill

Tennessee Victim Of Police Brutality Faces 3 Charges

1-4-47

MURFREESBORO, Tenn.—Southern justice moved swiftly last week to indict 52-year-old Edmond (Tobe) Haynes for first degree murder and attempt to murder as the result of a gun battle with police here two weeks ago.

A grand jury returned three indictments Friday against the police brutality victim who surrendered after he had killed one policeman and wounded three other officers on Dec. 16. He was charged with first degree murder in the death of Patrolman Herbert McClanahan and with attempt to murder in the wounding of Chief of Police W. N. Power and Fire Chief B. B. Qualis. Haynes was also wounded in the one-hour gun fight.

He was spirited to Nashville to avoid probable mob violence when several hundred whites milled about the Rutherford County jail where he had been lodged, threatening to storm it and lynch the colored man.

Sat.

Haynes suddenly went berserk when police officers began manhandling him in jail after he had been taken into custody for questioning in connection with an alleged robbery. He felled Officer McClanahan with a bullet through the head after seizing the latter's pistol. Fleeing from the scene, Haynes also armed himself with a shotgun. As he neared the street he shot and slightly wounded Police Chief Powers, who was unarmed, in the chest.

Haynes ran to a house several blocks away and barricaded himself where he exchanged fire with officers and other whites. Fire Chief Qualis, Sheriff Earl McKnight and a truck driver, Ray Armstrong, were shot at the time. The colored man himself was wounded in the head and arms before he surrendered.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes(Tennessee)

Dr. Townsend Under Bond in Auto Death

The Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat-7-19-47

Baptist Executive Admits Accident, But Says Police Exaggerate Details

14c W by N

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Dr. A. M. Townsend, 71, secretary of the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, was released last Friday night on bail of $6,000 in Winchester, Tenn., where he was arrested on charges growing out of the hit-and-run death of a white laborer.

Pittsburgh

Waving examination at a preliminary hearing in Winchester, Dr. Townsend was bound over to the next term of circuit court on two charges.

Courier Sat. 7-19-4

On a manslaughter charge, he posted bail of $5,000; on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident, he posted $1,000 bond. The victim was Roy Garner, a 46-year-old native of Oak Grove in Franklin County.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

ARRESTED AT HOME

Dr. Townsend was arrested by State Highway patrolmen at his summer home near Winchester, forty-five minutes after the accident. He was traced through a license plate found near the scene.

The churchman stated that he was unaware that he had hit anyone, and his two daughters, riding in his 1941 Cadillac at the time, said they were asleep and knew nothing of the affair.

Sat. 7-19-47

Two Winchester men in front of whose home the accident occurred, said they heard the impact and found Garner lying dead, and then said they gave chase to the death car, at times reaching a speed of eighty miles an hour, but could not overtake the hit-run vehicle.

In a statement to The Courier on Monday morning, Dr. Townsend declared that the details of the accident had been grossly exaggerated. He admitted having the accident but denied that he had driven his car at a speed anywhere near the alleged eighty miles an hour. Two Winchester lawyers will defend him.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (Texas)

Youth Transferred To County Jail To Avoid Mob Violence

The Informer Houston, Texas

Sat. 7-19-47

HOUSTON — Raymond Davis, 17-year-old farm boy of Newton, was "safe" in the Harris County jail Tuesday, after he reportedly admitted to officers earlier that he shot to death two white men on July 5 after hitchhiking a ride with them.

Davis was rushed from Newton to Houston by Texas Rangers, who said they transferred the youth to safeguard him from possible mob violence.

The two slain white men were Ike Daniel, 45, of Silsbee, and William Yearwood, 75, of Silsbee, both of whom were killed by bullets fired from a 22 calibre rifle. Daniel died the following day after being shot twice in the head and Yearwood was killed instantly, the bullet piercing his heart.

The youth's arrest climaxed an eight-day manhunt in which hundreds of officers and citizens took part. Sat. 7-19-47

Davis was arrested two days after the slaying for routine questioning, but escaped the next day, only to be returned to jail by his father. It was not until Tuesday, however, that officers say the youth admitted, both orally and written, that he shot the two men to death.

Young Lad in Harris County Jail To Avoid Would Be Mobbists

The Black Dispatch

HOUSTON — (ANP) — Rushed to the county jail by Texas Rangers to avoid mob violence, Raymond Davis, 17, of Newton, Texas, is reported to have admitted slaying two white men who had given him a lift as he walked down a country road. Sat. 7-[illegible]-47

Both men were killed by bullets from a .22 rifle. One died instantly and the other died the following day, according to officers.

Davis' arrest came after an eight-day man hunt in which hundreds of officers and citizens took part. Okla. City, Okla.

Davis escaped from jail following a two day routine questioning by law enforcement officials but was returned to jail by his father. He is said to have admitted he killed the two men.

Faces Beaumont Trial For Murders Of Two White Men

The Informer — Houston, Texas

Sat. 7-26-47

HOUSTON — Raymond Davis 17-year-old farm boy from Newton charged with shooting to death two white men last July 5, will go to trial in connection with one of the slayings, Monday, July 28, in Beaumont, it was learned from sources around the Criminal Courts' building here today. Sat. 7-26-47

Davis has been in the Harris County jail here since July 15, at which time he repordedly admitted killing the two men. Texas Rangers said they transferred the youth from Newton to the Houston jail to safeguard him from possible mob violence.

Davis will be tried for killing Ike Daniel, 45-year-old utilities company executive of Silsbee, one of the two white men found shot near Newton earlier this month. The other slain man was William Yearwood 75, of Silsbee. Both men died from bullets fired from a 22 calibre rifle. Sat. 7-26-47

The two murder indictments were returned against David last Friday during a special session of the Newton County grand jury.

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8 YOUTHS ARRESTED IN DEATH OF WHITE MAN

The Informer

Beaumont — Eight youths were arrested here Wednesday in connection with the death of E. Leonard Manning, white, whose mutilated body was found on the sidewalk in the 900 block of Mariposa street Wednesday morning.

Six of the youths between the ages of 17 and 21 were charged with murder in Justice of the Peace Horace C. Blade's court. Those filed on in Justice of the Peace Horace Blade's court were: Dallas Busby, 20, Eddie Valmore, 20, Arnold Herbert Lockley, 18, Toby Junior Duhon, 17, Rodgie Bertrand Huges, 21, and Wesley Fregia, Jr., 17. An examining trial was set for Tuesday, September 2. Houston, Tex.

The other two were transferred to the Juvenile court and held on delinquency charges. Sat. 9-6-47

It is alleged that officers received an early cue when they learned of the circumstances leading to the killing of Manning. Manning accompanied by another white man, Van Lafayette Moye of Dollarville, Polk county, engaged in a conversation with two Negro youths near Gladys and Magnolia shortly after mid-night Wednesday. The conversation led to an argument between Manning and one of the youths. Later this youth was seen walking between Moye and Manning going west on Gladys street. As the trio walked down Gladys street they attracted the attention of other youths who took up the trail and began to follow out of curiosity to see what was going to happen to the Negro youth who appeared to be forced to go along with the two white men.

A number persons on Gladys street saw the group. They turned off Gladys street and out of the Negro section towards a white section. When they had gone but a short distance these boys, who had been watching the movement of the trio discovered that a fight was in progress and began to scatter. The police estimated that the slaying took place between 12:30 and 1:00 a. m. Wednesday.

Moye, who had left the county had been returned and was at the time in the custody of officers of the police department. He claimed he managed to escape the Negroes by leaping a very high fence at the Coca-Cola plant. The youths were arrested and by one by one, the last being arrested Friday. Information furnished by Moye leading to the arrest of the Negro youths appears to have exonorated him in the slaying. Sat. 9-6-47

Officers picked up a trail of were Manning's body was found blood leading north from the place to a Negro section, which was that of a youth who had been cut on the arm during the melee. It is alleged that the police believed Negroes were implicated in the killing because of the frequent use of knives and by the trail leading to a Negro section. No one in authority believe that this was a premeditated murder but that it grew out of arguments and other conditions. Police think that Manning was unable to defend himself with whatever weapon he had in his possession and started to run and was overtaken and struck down where the body was found.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (Washington)

Man Arrested In Wash. Axe Slaying

Daily World

TACOMA, Wash.— (SNS)— Police reportedly arrested a transient Negro and obtained an alleged confession from him in the axe-slaying of a 52-year-old white mother and her 17-year-old daughter.

The arrested party, listed as Jack Bird, 45, was said to have been apprehended by police shortly after the slaying. He is said to have stabbed the two officers as they grappled with him.

The alleged victims are Mrs. Bertha Kludt, who was reportedly found clad only in pajama tops, and her daughter Beverly, whose head was said to have been caved in by a sharp, heavy weapon.

Atlanta, Ga. 11-1-47 Sat.

14c 1947

Whites by Negroes (W. Va.)

Police Question Negro About Beckley Slaying

Advertiser

BECKLEY, W. VA., Nov. 8.—(AP)—State Police Sgt. Anthony Scalise said tonight that officers were holding a Negro for questioning in connection with the slaying of a 50-year-old Beckley businessman and the blonde, 39-year-old wife of a prominent dentist.

Montgomery, Ala. Mon 11-10-47

The bodies of Mrs. Nellie Mae Rand, wife of Dr. Kenneth K. Rand, and E. Ray Bailey were found along a lonely Raleigh County road early Wednesday by hunters. Both had been shot through the head and the bodies were sprawled at the foot of an embankment.

Andy Wright, Negro In Scottsboro Case, Appeals To Folsom

The News
Birmingham, Ala
Wed. 2-26-47

Requests Pardon Or Permission To Leave State To Take Job

14d

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 26—(AP)—Gov. Folsom turned over to the State Pardon-Parole Board "without recommendation" today a personal appeal for freedom for Andy Wright, one of the Negroes involved in the celebrated "Scottsboro case" of 16 years ago.

Wright, who is on parole from a 99-year prison sentence for rape, conferred with the governor to ask him to recommend either a pardon or permission to go outside of Alabama to work.

He was convicted in July, 1937, along with three others of the nine Negroes originally charged with raping two white women on a freight train on March 25, 1931. Paroled in January, 1944, he was returned to Kilby Prison last October charged with violating the parole, but was released the following month. Wed. 2-26-47

* * *

WRIGHT SAID HE WANTED first a full pardon, which under Alabama law can be given only by the Pardon-Parole Board, and if he could not get one, he wanted permission to leave Alabama and work either in Tennessee, Ohio or Michigan.

Members of his family are living in those states, his mother and sisters in Chattanooga, the Negro said, and he has job offers in all three places. The News

Secretary L. B. Stephens, of the Pardon-Parole Board, said Wright talked with Board Chairman Howell Turner after his conference with Gov. Folsom, but that he did not ask Turner for authority to leave the state. Birmingham Ala.

Stephens said in his conversation with Turner, the Negro complained only he was working under a "hardship" in his present job in Montgomery and asked to be permitted to change jobs, but without mentioning any specifically.

The secretary said the board's policy was to investigate the possibility of a transfer "any time a parolee can better himself by going to another state."

Parole Board records showed Wright has not asked to leave Alabama since his parole was granted three years ago. At that time, said Stephens, he asked to be allowed to work either in Tennessee, Michigan or New York, but all three states refused to accept jurisdiction. Wed. 2-26-47

* * *

THE BOARD SECRETARY explained that an interstate compact governs parolees and that they cannot be sent into another state unless authorities there agree.

He said Tennessee, Michigan and New York declined to accept Wright on the grounds of lack of job opportunities, and that New York and Tennessee also had refused two years previously when the Negro first became eligible for parole and was turned down.

When Wright was returned to Kilby last October, Stephens said it was because he had left Alabama and went to Chattanooga, but returned voluntarily. Wed. 2.26.47

Wright and the three others were given prison terms in the Scottsboro case after six years of litigation. The first trial brought death sentences for eight of the defendants, but the verdicts were overturned on appeal, and in the final proceedings four were given prison terms for rape, four were acquitted and the ninth was convicted of assaulting a deputy sheriff who was transporting him from one prison to another.

Board Given Wright Plea

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Scottsboro Case Negro Seeks Approval On Out-State Work

A plea for freedom from Andy Wright, one of the Negroes involved in the "Scottsboro case," was handed to the State pardon-parole board yesterday by Gov. James E. Folsom, who talked with the Negro himself. Thurs 2-27-47

The governor said he turned the request over to the board "without recommendation."

Wright went to see the governor in an effort, he said, to get a full pardon or to get permission to go outside of Alabama to work. On parole from a 99-year prison sentence for rape, the Negro is employed in Montgomery now under direction of the board.

Parole Board Secretary L. B. Stephens said Wright also conferred with Board Chairman Howell Turner, but that he asked Turner only for permission to change jobs, without specifying any location. Stephens said the Negro complained he was under a "hardship" in his present place of work "because he is a parolee."

Wright said he had jobs waiting for him in Chattanooga, Tenn., and also in Ohio and Michigan.

Scottsboro Case Principal In Jail

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

The State Pardon-Parole Board Monday ordered Andy Wright, one of the principals in the notorious "Scottsboro Case," returned to Kilby Prison for the second time in seven months as a delinquent parolee.

He will be held at Kilby until the board determines, probably at a hearing next month, whether his parole is to be reinstated or revoked.

Wright was declared delinquent after he appeared before City Recorder John B. Scott on charges of reckless driving and operating an automobile without a drivers license and was fined $31. He went to jail in default of payment.

Parole Board Secretary L. B. Stephens said the state would take jurisdiction as soon as the city releases the Negro and that a hearing before the board probably would be held next month. The next regular session to consider delinquents will be on June 4, he added.

If his parole is ordered revoked, the secretary said, the Negro will resume serving the 99-year sentence imposed on him in 1937 for rape.

Wright was one of four Negroes sentenced to prison for rape after six years of litigation growing out of an attack on two white women on a freight train in 1931. In the original trial eight of the nine Negroes involved were given the death penalty, but the sentences were overturned on appeal. Tues. 5-27-47

Scottsboro Case Boy Lands In Prison

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.
14d

By Associated Negro Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— Andy Wright, one of the principals in the publicized "Scottsboro case" was returned to Kilby prison last week for the second time in seven months as a delinquent parolee. Sat. 6-7-47

Wright was declared delinquent after he appeared before City Recorder John B. Scott on charges of reckless driving and operating an automobile without a driver's license. He was fined $31 and jailed in default of payment.

The state will take jurisdiction as soon as the city releases Wright, said L. B. Stephens, parole board secretary. If his parole is revokked, Wright will resume serving the 99-year sentence imposed on him in 1937 for rape, Stephens declared.

He was one of nine Negro youths Alabama tried to kill because of the alleged rape of two white women on a freight train in 1931. After six years of litigation, Wright and three others were sentenced to prison even though one of the women denied the state's rape charges.

MORE ON SCOTTSBORO

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

New York, L.—Heywood Patterson, who is the only one of the original Scottsboro boys who has not been released from Kilby Prison, Ala., on parole, is not the only one in prison.

Andy Wright is now back in prison after being released twice and breaking parole each time. For many years, Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers has been working on these cases.—ROY WILKINS.

Ala. Sat. 9-6-47

(Editor's Note: Last week, Heywood Patterson appealed to AFRO readers to help him get out of prison.) Afro-American

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Parole Violated Twice, 'Scottsboro Boy' Sent Back to 99-Year Term

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 10-11-47

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ANP)—For twice violating a parole granted in 1944, Andy Wright one of nine "Scottsboro" boys convicted of criminally assaulting two white women on a train in north Alabama 16 years ago, was ordered back to prison here last week to resume serving a 99-year sentence.

Wright's first offense occurred last October. The board allowed him to return to his job. The second occurred in May when he was arrested and convicted on operating a vehicle without a license. Sat.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

VICTIM HELD AGAIN

Charge Scottsboro Youth For Violation Of Parole

Sat. 6-7-47

By JOHN LeFLORE

MONTGOMERY — The State Pardon and Paroles Board may decide this week if Andy Wright, one of the unfortunate defandants in the infamous Scottsboro case, will have to resume serving a 99-year sentence imposed by an Alabama jury in 1937 in connection with the notorious rape frame-up trial.

Wright, who was free on parole, was declared delinquent when City Recorder John B. Scott fined him $31 and costs last week on charges of reckless driving and operating an automobile without a driver's license. It was the second time he has been in custody of the law in the past seven months.

He was committed to jail in default of payment of his fine in his most recent case. The pardon and paroles board will decide at its next meeting this week whether to revoke or reinstate his parole.

He will be held at Kilby prison here until the board determines his future. The state will take jurisdiction as soon as the city releases the Scottsboro case victim from its toil.

L. B. Stephens, secretary of the board, said that Wright will be sent back to the penitentiary to begin again the 99-year prison term to which he was sentenced in the Scottsboro case, if his parole is revoked.

Chicago Defender

He was paroled in 1944, but was returned to Kilby prison last October, charged with violating his parole by leaving the state without permission of the board. After a hearing the parole agency restored his restricted freedom at that time.

The nine Scottsboro defendants were arrested in 1931 for the alleged rape of two white women hoboes aboard a freight train in northern Alabama. In the original trial, eight of the nine mere boys at that time were sentenced to death. Sat. 6-7-47

Despite a repudiation of the rape story by Ruby Bates, one of the white women in the case, prejudice continued to rule the deliberations of the juries, and their decisions indicated a determination to uphold the "sanctity" of white womanhood - regardless. Because she defied a Southern tradition and told the truth, Ruby had to leave the South.

Wright was one of the four youths sentenced for rape in the final trial in 1937.

14d 1947

General

Army Frees Negro Sentenced to 16 Years

Daily Worker

New York N.Y. Tues. 7-8-47

The Secretary of War's Board of Clemency has just freed a Negro soldier who was sentenced to 16 years hard labor by an Army courts-martial in 1943. The remittial of sentence was won for Ernest Stewart, 31, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP petition by legal counsel Franklin H. Williams and Thorgood Marshall showed that the conviction was based on evidence which in a civil court would have called for acquittal. Stewart, a private with the 4139 Quartermaster Service Company, was convicted of assaulting his commanding officer, a Lt. Marlow, and a Pvt. Scott.

On the day in question he and another Negro soldier had started for a walk and were ordered back to their tents by Marlow as they had no passes. Stewart protested and engaged Marlow in a slight argument. Tues. 7-8-47

Marlow went away on a tour of duty and returned at late dusk. As he alighted from his jeep, he heard a shot. Then a bullet hit the ground at his feet and another zinged by his head. Several more shots rang out.

At the courts-martial Stewart admitted firing the shots. He explained that after he returned to his tent he noticed two strangers entering a nearby supply tent. He went to challenge them and was set upon. He broke loose, rushed back to his tent, got his rifle and fired at them.

It was brought out that in the Near Eastern area where they were stationed, thieves continually pilfered their supplies, and Marlow himself had warned his men to be on guard against escaped German prisoners of war. However the identity of Stewart's attackers was never established as it was dark and they escaped.

The NAACP brief pointed out that the courts-martial record indicated that certain hills, obstructions and the darkness made it impossible for Stewart to see Marlow even if he had wanted to shoot at him. This disproved "intent to kill."

Stewart denied any malice toward Marlow because of the afternoon's incident. He had an excellent service record, and had never broken the law at his home in Richmond, Virginia. Tues. 7-8-47

The NAACP received word over the weekend from the Adjutant-General's office that Stewart had been released and returned to civilian life. He served four years at hard labor.

14d 1947 Maine

MAINE'S JACKSON
Pardoned.

¶ In Thomaston, Me., 58-year-old Negro Joseph J. Jackson flashed a dazzling Christmas morning smile for photographers. After serving 10 years for murder, he had just been pardoned.

Time 1-6-47 [illegible] Dec.

172

14d 1947

North Carolina

Condemned Pair Set Free in N.C.

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.

RALEIGH, N.C.—Kindlier than Mississippi's Governor, who let Willie Francis twice walk the "last mile" to the execution chamber, North Carolina's Governor Cherry, last week, granted freedom to Blease Young and Calvin Carpenter, who in 1934, were sentenced to death.

The pair, convicted in the slaying of Gus McDowell in Rutherford County, but whose execution was commuted to life imprisonment and later reduced to from 27 to 40 years, were among 12 convicts paroled last Tuesday.

Among others of the dozen freed were:

Laura Pointer, sentenced in Durham County in March to 60 days for assault and battery (released because of poor health); Earl Cox, sentenced in Edgecombe in September, 1945, to three to four years for assault with intent to kill; and Matilda Woodard, sentenced in Beaufort last June, to two to three years for assault with a deadly weapon. Sat 5-3-47

14d 1947

New York

Parole Board's Composition

The Times

A Negro Member Is Suggested to Combat Law-Breaking

New York, N.Y.
Fri 5-2-47

142

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

An editorial appearing in your April 3 issue was of great interest to me. In it you spoke for the inclusion of a woman in the membership of the State Parole Board, to fill one of the two newly established positions there.

Particularly interesting was your statement that a woman should win such an appointment "especially in view of the fact that perhaps 7 to 8 per cent of the cases coming before it involve women * * *" I agree fully with your premise that the composition of the board should depend upon the choice of people best equipped to understand the multitudinous problems involved in making decisions best suited to the interests both of society and of the individual prisoners.

Does it not seem equally logical and well based, then, in view of the fact that some 25 per cent of the persons incarcerated in the State of New York are Negroes, that there should be a qualified Negro representative included in the membership of the State Parole Board?

The staggering proportion of Negro prisoners in relation to the population would point toward the view that much remains to be done before we can arrive at the solution to the correlation between those who are racially oppressed and those who are law-breakers.

The appointment of a Negro to the State Parole Board might do much to aid New York State in combating increased law-breaking among this tenth of our population. 5-2-47

It might also help in the rehabilitation not only of this minority group but of the larger minority, those who are in penal institutions throughout ~~the state.~~ Times

GEORGIA PRESLEY.

New York, April 30, 1947. N.Y.

Man Adjudged Innocent After 21 Years Of Imprisonment

142 Pa. Memphis, Tenn. World

Tues. 7-15-47

PHILADELPHIA—(NNPA)- One of twenty-five commutations of sentences granted by Governor James H. Duff on recommendation of the Pardons Board last Monday was given to Frank Harris, 49-year old Philadelphian, who has been adjudged innocent of the crime for which he was given a term of life imprisonment.

Harris has been in prison twenty one years for murder he did not commit. His innocence was scientifically proved by a difference in the caliber of the bullet which killed an acquaintance of Harris' proved that Harris had not been the murderer. The State Pardon Board recommended that he be freed.

A jury in Quarter Sessions Court found Harris guilty in September 1926, of murdering Wilbert McQueen at Tenth and Lombard Sts. on March 4 of the same year.

CARRIER REVOLVER

McQueen died in Pennsylvania Hospital after being shot in the chest while he and Harris were being arrested by two patrolmen for questioning. At the time, Harris carried a 32-caliber revolver.

Testimony was given at the trial that Harris broke away from one of the officers while being taken to a patrol. There was an exchange of fire at the time. McQueen was in the line of fire and was fatally wounded. Tues. 7-15-47

Harris also was wounded but recovered after teatment at the same hospital. Subsequently, he was sent to prison.

About a year ago, Herbert L. Maris, an attorney, became interested in the case. He enlisted the aid of Detective Lieutenant George Spangler, head of the police ballistics department.

FROM POLICE GUN

According to Maris, Springler made thorough tests of the bullet that killed McQueen and found that it came from one of the weapons carried by the policemen. His report, the attorney said, was given to the Pardons Board.

In addition, Maris said, the transcript of the court record showed that the late Judge Charles Y. Audrenried charged the jury to return a verdict of not guilty if they believed that the bullet had not been fired from the revolver Harris was carrying at the time. 142 Pa.

Harris was entitled to $10 and a suit of clothing upon his release from prison. He was 28 years old when he entered the penitentiary at Twenty-first street and Lombard avenue. He formerly lived on Lombard street near Nineteenth street. Tues. 7-15-47

Innocent Man Still Held Because Of Past Record

Birmingham, Ala.

HARRISBURG, Pa., July 26—(AP)—Frank Harris, 49-year-old Philadelphia Negro who has served 21 years for a murder he didn't actually commit, is still not "innocent of any crime," says the Pennsylvania Parole Board. Fri. 7-25-47

Harris' life sentence was recently commuted by Gov. James H. Duff. Evidence had been submitted showing that a bullet which killed Wilbert McQueen in 1926 was not fired from Harris' gun. McQueen and Harris engaged two policemen in a gunfight. "Birmingham News"

The Negro is still in Eastern Penitentiary. The parole board ordered him detained, despite the commutation, until he submits a satisfactory plan as to home and job.

A policeman fired the bullet that killed McQueen, but Harris "was involved in the shooting affair with these two policemen and could under no circumstances be declared innocent of any crime," the board statement said. Fri. 7-25-47

"Investigation shows that Harris is a man with a serious criminal record and can in no way be considered as having been unjustly plunged into shame and degradation by this life sentence."

Sunlight Dazzles Freed Pa. Lifer

PHILADELPHIA

The big gates of Eastern State Penitentiary swung open Friday afternoon, and Frank Harris saw the building from the outside for the first time in 21 years.

Free after spending the best years of his life behind bars for a murder he did not commit, Harris, now 49, appeared dazed as he blinked in the sunlight.

Release Sudden

Although preceded by newspaper stories for the last few weeks, his actual release was sudden and unannounced. Only Herbert L. Maris, the lawyer who proved Harris's innocence, was on hand to escort him from prison.

Both the State Parole Board and penitentiary officials requested that Harris be kept under cover for awhile, the attorney said, because he has had "too much publicity." Sat 8-2-47

May Be Compensated

From the Commonwealth, Harris received a cheap suit of clothes and $5. This is all the present law allows. There is a possibility, however, that a bill may be passed at the next regular session of the legislature which would permit more adequate compensation to Harris.

The Parole Board would not grant Harris's release until he had a satisfactory job, home and sponsor. Maris said any job his client gets now would be temporary.

To Live in N.C.

The lawyer added that Harris does not plan to live in Philadelphia, but will in all probability move to North Carolina, his native State.

The Afro-Am

Harris was convicted in 1926 and sentenced to life imprisonment for the fatal shooting of Wilbert McQueen, a friend, during a gunfight with two policemen. His release came after Maris proved that the bullet that killed McQueen could not have been fired from Harris's gun.

14d 1947 Probation

Landlord's Slayer,

14d World

Father Of Four,

Atlanta, Ga.

Gets Probation

12-24-47

CHICAGO—(ANP)—James Hickman, 44-year-old steel worker, of whose four children were burned to death in a fire earlier this year, last week was placed on probation for two years after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the death of his landlord, David Coleman, 24.

Hickman charged Coleman set fire to the building in order to oust Hickman as a tentnt. After the fatal fire, the steel worker came upon his landlord sitting in a parked car on July 16, and shot him to death.

Originally charged with murder, this was reduced by agreement with the state's attorney after a previous trial was declared a mistrial when the jury failed to agree after 19 hours deliberation. Sat.

Thousands of letters poured in asking clemency for Hickman an a defense committee was established to rally support.

Sheriff, Four Others Indicted For Torturing Mother Of Eight

Defender Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 2-22-47

By JOHN LeFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Bourbon South's feudalism was again exposed when the Sheriff of Bullock county and four other whites were indicted here last week by a Federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy to violate the civil rights of a 25-year-old mother of eight children.

Released on bond Thursday after being booked for torturing Mrs. Martha Kendrick McMillan, wife of a Baptist minister, were: Sheriff Joseph L. Pickett, Reynolds G Cook; his wife, Mrs. Margaret Green Cook; Verrell "Rell" Green, and Comer F. Green, brothers of Mrs. Cook. All were freed on bond of $2,000 each, made in U.S. District court here.

Seek Forced Confession

The indictment charged that Mrs. McMillan, who was employed as a maid in the home of Cook and his wife, was unlawfully arrested and beaten last September, in an effort to compel her to confess to a supposed state offense.

The U. S. District Attorney's office here said that she was suspected of stealing jewelry belonging to the white woman. Mrs. McMillan stoutly maintained her innocence.

The indictment charged the defendants with conspiring to deprive Mrs. McMillan of rights under the 14th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, including the guarantee against being deprived of liberty without due process of law, against being subjected to torture to compel her to give evidence against herself, and against being subjected to different pains and punishments on account of her race and color. Sat. 2-22-47

The whites went to Mrs. McMillan's home last September, took her to the county jail at Union Springs, and are said to have beaten and whipped her until welts appeared on her body and her face was swollen before permitting her to return home.

Sheriff Pickett, Cook and Verrell Green were said to have been extremely brutal in mistreating the colored woman.

appeared—at least temporarily—partially paralyzed. and his left eye swollen and obviously damaged.

After thus dealing out justice to Robert Felton, Goolsby turned his policely duties to the boy's father.

According to the elder Negro, the officer of the law asked him, "Are you that boy's daddy?" When told he was, the old man was quizzed as to whether or not he would stand up for his son Then Goolsby is said to have ordered:

"Take off your glasses."

According to testimony Goolsby then beat the old man.

Goolsby does not, apparently, admit kicking the father, but the Negro, Oscar Cook, mentions it in his statement. Besides, a medical statement spoke of the imprint of a boot being clearly outlined on the old man's ribs.

The elder Felton was seen Saturday night in his home, his side all strapped up. He has at least two broken ribs. A grandchild found the old man's spectacles out in the road Saturday morning.

The Felders' home ,incidentally, is a nice, clean house at 307 Council Street. There are carpets on the floor, China and ornaments neatly hanging from the walls and in cupboards, nice tables about the rooms.

The police found, after their "investigations," nothing to cause them to make an arrest; nothing worthy of report. So now they are suspended for not making a report says Chief King.

When something "leaked," Chief Detective Lewis Miller and his assistant, Ruppenthal, personally chased to the neighborhood to collect evidence. Also in circulation on the case were detectives Lewis and Davis.

In the subsequent statements Goolsby appears to take the blame for administering the beatings, and Ingram insists he was a mere onlooker. The Negro Cook's statement appears also to substantiate this.

Incidentally, the Negro, Cook, appears to be a cousin of some other Negro who had an argument with Robert Felder about three weeks ago. Washington Park gossip on Saturday night was that Cook had threatened "to get Felton" and in one of the statements in the case, Ingram quotes Cook as making vindictive remarks against Felton at the time of the beating.

There are some other matters which may yet be told . . .

Policemen Suspended After Attack On Two Negro Men

Advertiser

~~Montgomery Ala~~

By GEOFFREY BIRT

At approximately 9:30 p.m., last Friday, two members of the Montgomery Police Department, C. F. Goolsby and J. R. Ingram, jumped from their patrol car, frisked two Negroes, one a 65-year-old man, found no cause to make an arrest; no cause to make a report; no cause to take any action against them, and then one, Goolsby, beat both Negroes into pitiful conditions. All this is now a matter of record. Mon. 9-29-47

News of this "leaked" and a chase round the Washington Park area by detectives on the one hand, and a member of the press on the other, ensued.

Both the policemen have now been "indefinitely suspended" said Police Chief Ralph King yesterday. It appears, however, that the cause of this disciplinary action against Goolsby and Ingram is because of their failure to report the incident, according to King—not because of the assaults. **Goolsby and Ingram are** found him in the Negro hospital on Oak Street, unconscious and scarcely recognizable. That was about 9:30 Saturday morning.

It appears that after Robert Felder got home Friday night, he and his old dad later got in the boy's car, and went to the hospital to visit Robert's sister there. They had returned from this trip, and had driven up Council Street, Washington Park, where the family lives, and stopped outside the elder Felder's house.

Then a car drove down the dirt road and swished to a standstill immediately in front of them. Two men leaped out, one going to one side of the Felder car and the second man going to the other side.

Grabbing both the old and the young Negroes, they searched them for weapons, and, it was stated, asked where the whisky was in the car. The charge was denied. Advertiser

No Liquor Found

Seated in the police car was another Negro who, it since transpired was Oscar Cook, a Negro taxi driver. He told the two men, who were Goolsby and Ingram, to look under the seat, since that is where it was kept. No liquor was found.

No mention is made of liquor in the statements since signed by Goolsby and Ingram, however. Instead, both speak of searching for a gun. Montgomery Ala

Goolsby admits then taking the younger Felder down the road a little way "and whipping him with my blackjack."

A reconstruction of the incident at the actual site, a visit to the hospital to see Robert Felder, and the medical evidence in the case shows that the policemen asked the scared boy about two or three questions and then struck him, and struck him again, and again, until he fell bleeding on the dirt road. There he was kicked. Mon. 9-29-47

Saturday night in the hospital he was seen with his head swathed in bandages, his body contorted, only half conscious, sweating though an ice pack was over his head. His neck was almost as big as his head.

Fracture Feared

The condition of his head, it was said, had so far prevented the taking of X-ray pictures. A preliminary check indicated, however, that his skull was probably fractured, his right arm and leg

Policeman Gives Up On Assault Charges

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 13—(AP)—Former City Policeman C. F. Goolsby, dismissed after being charged with assault to murder in the beating of two Negroes two weeks ago, surrendered to the sheriff's office Saturday, Sheriff G. A. Mosely announced.

The sheriff said Goolsby was released on a $500 bond.

Robert Felder, 65-year-old Negro, swore out a warrant charging Goolsby and Officer J. R. Ingram, also dismissed, with intent to murder after he and his son, Robert Felder, Jr., were beaten Sept. 26.

Rule, Not Brutality, Trips Ala. Officers

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ANP)—Two white policemen, who seized and beat two colored men without cause were "indefinitely suspended" by Police Chief Ralph King here last Sept. 26—not, however, for assaulting the men without cause, but for failing to report the incident. Sat,

Robert Felder, service station employer and his 65-year-old father were set upon by the policemen, who frisked them and searched their car for whiskey, then beat Felder with a blackjack until he sustained a fractured skull and broken right leg and arm. 10-11-47

Handcuffed Prisoner Shot

Courier

Pittsburgh Pa.

Sat. 11-29-47

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP)—A handcuffed prisoner, arrested for assault with intent to murder, and assault and battery charges, was shot in the abdomen by police here last week after he jumped from a moving squad car in an escape attempt.

The man, identified as James Adams, 27, had been wanted since Oct. 24 on a charge of assault with intent to murder.

POLICE TIPPED OFF

Arrested through a tip at a local cafe, Adams was handcuffed and put into a squad car by Officers W. Campbell and R. T. Alford. En route to jail, the car slowed down in the heavy afternoon traffic. Adams bailed out of the car and the policemen chased him until he was cornered at a high brick wall behind a curb market.

They alleged the man charged at them when they called for him to halt, and that they shot him when he failed to do so. 11-29-47

Warrants had been issed for Adams by Miss Mary Pearl Benson charging him with assault and battery last Oct. 18, and Ernest Smith, citing asasult with intent to murder on Oct. 24. At the hospital, the prisoner's condition was reported as "not good."

School Principal Beaten at Game

Afro-American

Policeman's Attack Makes Group Leave

Baltimore, Md

Sat. 12-20-47

TUSCALOOSA, Ala, (ANP) — While the powerful Alabama Crimson Tide overran the Louisiana Wildcats in Denny Stadium here last Saturday, a brutal Tuscaloosa policeman viciously assaulted a Tuscaloosa high school principal in the presence of nearly 500 members of his group who attended this great gridiron clash.

Jack Hargrove, principal of the Taylorville High School and a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, was standing in the very small jim-crow section of the stadium when he was approached by J. Holman of the Tuscaloosa police department and ordered to stand back.

Many spectators were standing so that they might clearly observe the field. Hesitating slightly, Mr. Hargrove was struck without warning and shoved into a seat. Holman hit him a second time with his blackjack. Sat. 12-20-47

At this time many colored spectators left the game. An employe of the university was seized by a fellow policeman standing by and arrested. Liberal whites ordered his release. Citizens of both races are pressing for action against the policeman.

Wins Damage Suit

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 10-25-47

14E

Ill.

CHICAGO COPS MADE A MISTAKE—A Chicago Circuit Court jury last week ruled in favor of Mrs. Marian Mallory, pretty ex-Powers model, and her bandleader husband, Eddie Mallory, who charged two Chicago policemen with false arrest and insults last November. The jury awarded Mrs. Mallory $2,000 and Mr. Mallory was granted $1,000. They had sued for $10,000. 10-25-47

14e 1947

Alabama

Birmingham Cops Gouge Eye of Negro Combat Vet

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y. Friday 3-28-47

By Mary Southard

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 27.—Joseph Kirk, Negro combat veteran with four years service, was half blind in a Birmingham hospital today as a result of a beating by city police officers. His right eye has been removed. Kirk, 35, was born and raised in Fairfield, a steel town near here. He served in the infantry in Italy and Japan. A college graduate, he was working as a painter's helper for the Tennessee Coal & Iron Co. He is a member of the CIO United Steelworkers.

On the night of March 12 Kirk and a friend were waiting for a trolley, after spending the evening in a skating rink. Two policemen drove up, accused him of disorderly conduct, searched him for weapons and threw him into the car.

KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS

He at no time resisted arrest. He remembers little of what happened in the car, since he was knocked unconscious by the blows of the officers. He awoke the next morning in the hospital with a bandage over his eye and an "Arrest" ticket by his pillow.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress has organized a Citizens Committee for the Defense of Joseph Kirk. It urged that organizations and individuals write the Birmingham Chief of Police, demanding the immediate removal of the two officers, R. T. Ponder and J. Widner, and full compensation to Joseph Kirk.

Recent instances of police brutality provoked the Junior Chamber of Commerce to set up a committee to confer with city officials on eliminating stormtrooperism on the force.

Orgy of Brutality Raging In Camp Hill, Alabama

The Worker Sun. 6-8-47

N.Y., N.Y.

By Mary Southard

A trip into Camp Hill, which several others and myself made, shows one thing very clearly:

The brutal murder of Mary Lizzie Noyes and the one-man pogrom against the Negro community, Pecan Alley, are but the most recent outcroppings of a day-to-day vicious suppression of the Negro people.

Two young Negro veterans told us that since May 4th no Negroes go into downtown Camp Hill after dark. A Negro housewife—and there are many like her—said that even in "ordinary" times she goes into town only when she has to, for fear of being abused or becoming the centre of some "incident."

Only three weeks after the murder of Mary Lizzie Noyes, a young Negro veteran, Willie Ross, was arrested and brutally beaten by Sheriff Horace Aiken from Dadeville, while he was buying a fish sandwich at a picnic of the Primitive Negro Baptists near Camp Hill. The sheriff drove up to the picnic grounds, where about 200 people were peacefully enjoying a Sunday afternoon, grabbed the young man by the back of his pants, and when Willie Ross asked why he was being arrested, began beating him on the head with his blackjack.

The pattern goes back to August 18, 1945, when a Negro woman, Mattie Reeder, and her prospective son-in-law, Robinson, were murdered in their car on the streets of Camp Hill by the town sheriff, Luke Langley. They were driving downtown when Langley called them to them to stop. When they failed to stop, probably becaue they didn't hear, he fired into the car a number of times, and when the car came to a stop, both were dead. **When Negro relatives and friends asked to see the bodies, which were taken to a funeral parlor owned by a relative of Langley, they were told to go away and mind their own business.**

These sheriffs have only one **function—to serve as the lawless murdering watchdogs** for the big **planters**, who want, at any cost, a supply of cheap, "docile" field laborers to chop and pick cotton.

Camp Hill and nearby Reeltown are unique in Tallapoosa County, in that in these two rural communities Negroes outnumber whites two to one. They are unique also because they were the centres of the great struggle for Negro sharecroppers in 1931-35, when the heroic Sharecroppers Union challenged the rule of the big planters. The Negro people in Camp Hill have not forgotten those days nor have the planters and their watchdogs. Sun. 6-8-47

The war has consderably sharpened the continual struggle between the planter and the sharecroppers. The planters are faced with a serious labor shortage—that is, of the low paid "controllable" labor which they want. More than half of the Negro veterans have left Camp Hill for cities in north Alabama, Georgia or the North. At the picnic, where Willie Ross was beaten, the people present were mostly old men, women and children. The young men are moving out, the farmers we interviewed told us. The day's rate for picking cotton has gone up to $2.50 (when the sharecroppers struck in 1931 it was 35 cents). But the planters feel that it is cheaper to unleash murder and terror on the Negro population than to pay decent wages.

That is what lies behind the brutal murder of Mary Lizzie Noyes, the attack on the young veteran, Australia Farrow, who had left Camp Hill to work in Birmingham, and the beating of the other veteran, Willie Ross, at the picnic.

Facts About Tallapoosa

Facts about Tallapoosa County, where Camp Hill is located: based on 1940 census

Population—35,370: White 24,023 Negro 11,247

Occupations: Most of the people work on the land.

Sixty percent of the farmers are operated by tenants or sharecroppers.

There are 5,000 tetxile workers, mostly white.

Most of the Negro people work and live on the land. Only 139 Negroes were listed in 1940 as being farm owners.

Education: Thirty per cent of the people over 25 years have had less than five years schooling.

Tallapoosa County, in 1939 40, spent $48.31 per white child for education, and $1.25 per Negro child. Sun. 6-8-47

Health: There are only 2 hospitals in the county with 63 beds.

No Negro vote in Camp Hill, even though they form two-thirds of the population.

Last fall for the first time in many years Negroes sought to register to vote. A truckload of about 50 tenants and croppers drove into the school house in Camp Hill to register.

They were told, simply and brutally, "Go on home, We ain't got time for n----rs."

Ala. Negro Vet Encounters 'White Supremacy' Justice

The Worker N.Y., N.Y. Sun. 6-15-47

By Mary Southard

DADEVILLE, Ala.—Australia Farrow, young Negro veteran accused of "assault with intent to murder," had his first round with white supremacy justice in the Tallapoosa County court house on June 2.

The red brick court house stands in the center of the town square in Dadeville, with its tall clock tower overlooking the surrounding countryside in which young cotton plants are already several inches high.

Seven miles away is Camp Hill, where on May 4 a brutal Negro-hater, Albert Huey, shot and killed a defenseless Negro woman and carried out a one-man shooting pogrom against the Negro community. It is this same Albert Huey who according to the prosecution was "assaulted" by Farrow.

When the preliminary hearing opened before Probate Judge C. P. Coley, about 100 people were seated on the long wooden benches in the big court room. On one side sat the whites. Some were interested in other cases to be heard; some were friends of Huey; others were just courtroom onlookers. On the other side toward the rear sat some 50 Negroes, most of whom had come over from Camp Hill to see what kind of deal Australia Farrow would get. Their silent presence there, in the face of the terrorism blighting Camp Hill in the past weeks, was a courageous demonstra of support for Australia Farrow. Sun. 6-15-47

EVERYBODY in the courtroom knew that the case presented by Solicitor Segrest on behalf of Huey was a brazen mockery of the truth. Huey, who is known throughout the area to both whites and Negroes, testified that he was innocently reaching down to strike a match for his cigarette on the curb where Farrow was sitting, when Farrow suddenly struck him with a walking stick and then ran. Huey's leading witness gave a conflicting account of the innocent.

Farrow took the stand and in five minutes gave a clear account of what happened. He was sitting on the curb of a small street in Camp Hill, when Huey came up to him, knocked his hat back and demanded that he give him his walking stick. When Farrow refused, saying that it belonged to his grandfather, Huey cursed, moved away a few paces, then turned and began moving in on Farrow as if to grab his walking stick and beat him with it. Farrow retreated as far as he could and then struck Huey once in self-defense and ran.

★

THREE NEGRO WITNESSES testified in behalf of Farrow. Most striking was Herbert Hill, young Negro veteran, who was an eye-witness, and supported Farrow's evidence in every particular. The solicitor was very annoyed, and subjected Hill to insolent cross-examination, peppered with shouts of "Boy, you said this, didn't you?", in an effort to intimidate and confuse him. Hill stood his ground with dignity, and countered every onslaught with "No, sir, I said this" and repeated his previous testimony.

The hearing was concluded in two hours and Judge Coley ruled that Farrow should be bound over to the Grand Jury (which meets in October) and his bond reduced from $1,000 to $500. He has been in jail since May 4.

There was no equal justice here. It was a white supremacy court. The Negro defendant and his witnesses were treated with contempt as second class citizens. The terms "boy" and "n----r" were constantly used by the solicitor the white witnesses and even by Sim Willbanks, Farrow's white lawyer who made only a fairly competent and certainly not a fighting defense of Farrow. In his final remarks to the judge, Willbanks said, "Of course, he (Farrow) is a 'n----r,' we all know that. But he wasn't harming anybody. Just minding his own business." Sun. 6-15-47

Huey has been charged with second degree murder, but at this writing no date has been set for a hearing on the charge. There is every indication that an effort is being made to railroad Farrow through, get him sent to the penitentiary, before any action is taken against the murderer, Huey.

Observers here believe after this hearing that a mass demand from all over the country will be necessary to bring Huey to trial at all and to get a conviction.

Negro Shot In Abdomen By Two City Policemen

Advertiser
Montgomery
Ala.
Thur. 8-21-47

A Negro was shot last night in a gun fight with police in the 400 block of Chappel Street.

Officers ... McCartha and L. J. Rushing, who answered a call at 500 Jeff Davis Street, about 7:20 p.m., were told, according to their report, that Albert Felder, Negro, 106 Ethel Street, had been causing a disturbance and had said he was going to get a gun.

When Felder was found by the ofdicers on Chappel Street, they reported, he began firing at them with a pistol. The policemen returned the fire, striking Felder in the abdomen. There were several witnesses to the shooting.

Felder was taken to Fraternity Hospital, where a physician said he was critically injured and in serious condition.

Pittsburgh
Courier
Sat-8-16-47

Birmingham NAACP Plans Action in Cop Brutality

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Full legal action was pledged last week by the Birmingham Branch NAACP against two Birmingham police officers who allegedly "wrongfully and cruelly attacked a group of colored citizens" on Wednesday, June 30.

The action followed a report presented by Emory O. Jackson, executive secretary of the branch that William E. Elston, letter carrier, had been allegedly attacked by a motorcycle policeman and an off-duty officer near the northeast end of the Birmingham Army Airfield and was abused, cursed, beaten and threatened to be killed on the spot.

WERE CHAPERONES

About fifty members and guests of the Les Aristocrates Club, composed of teen-agers, according to the report, were in two trucks on their way home from picnicking at the Cabin Club when one was stopped by police.

In a car behind them were five chaperones: Mr. Elston, his wife, Mrs. Wilma Davis-Elston, county school teacher; Mrs. Isabelle D. Govan, city school teacher; Miss Constance Cole, Miss Sandra Davis and Mrs. Lucille M. Mathews.

The report said that on driving up to the halted truck, one of the chaperons asked the officer what was the trouble and was answered in unprintable language. The report said that "a policeman in uniform (later identified as C. L. Borders) and a white man in civilian clothes (identified as W. W. Self), were cursing the boys and girls who had gotten out of the truck."

CHILDREN THREATENED

The report said that the uniformed officer said "you little black ——— whistling at white ladies;" and then threatened: "Just name the little ——— who said it and I will kill him right here."

At this point, the report said, Mrs. Davis alighted from her car and requested to know the trouble. She was addressed in the same language that had been volleyed upon the youths.

Sat-8-16-47

WIFE CURSED

Mr. Elston's statement said: "Another white man walked up and joined this white man in cursing and said, 'I ought to have a ——— machine gun so I could mow all the black ——— down.' At this point my wife asked the officers 'Well, why don't you send them al to jail instead of killing them?'

"He replied, 'What in the ——— are you doing up here and what do you have to do with it?'"

Mr. Elston's statement was that while this was going on he got back in his car and was then ordered out again. When he did not get out fast enough, one officer ripped open the door and pulled him out. His wife clung to him crying, "please don't kill him."

WOMAN KNOCKED DOWN

On a third attempt he was jerked out of the car and the assisting officer knocked his wife back into the car, drew his pistol on her and threatened to kill her.

One, and then both, began to beat Mr. Elston, the statement said. The officers then carried him to the Army airfield headquarters where a man called "Sapp" begged the officers to "let me finish him off."

Mr. Elston said that he and witnesses were given a hearing Tuesday, Aug. 5, by Capt. H. V. Early in City Hall who promised to announce his decision Tuesday, Aug 12

Punish Cop Who Hit Mail Carrier

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 8-30-47

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(NNPA)—C. L. Borders, local police officer who was charged with mistreatment of William E. Elston, 426 Twelfth ave., north, was given a five-day suspension by Police Chief Floyd C. Eddies, on Wednesday, it was learned this week.

W. W. Self, another officer, who was off duty and in civilian clothes at the time of the incident, was let off without punishment. He was charged with participating in the abuse of Elston, a letter carrier.

In a sworn statement, Elston charged that on the evening of July 30, near the Birmingham Airport, Officer Borders halted a truckload of teen-agers who were on their way home from a picnic at the Cabin Club. He is alleged to have cursed and threatened them. Elston also stated that when his wife, Mrs. Wilma Davis Elston, sought to find out what the trouble was, she was abused.

Elston charged that as he sat in the car one officer snatched him out, jolted him loose from the clutching arms of his wife, menaced him with a gun, and cursed him, using racial epithets.

A hearing was held by Captain H. V. Early in City Hall on Aug. 5. Witnesses appeared for and against the accused officers. It was on this evidence that Chief Eddins acted. Sat. 8-30-47

Since the incident Elston has obtained a transfer to the Chicago post office.

The Birmingham branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was active in pressing charges against the officers.

Abusive Officers Face Law Suit

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 8-23-47

Pair Cursed Stranded Children, Beat Adult

BIRMINGHAM — (ANP)—Two white policemen face legal action by the local NAACP chapter for recently abusing a group of prominent colored citizens on a highway near here.

The incident started when a truck bringing a group of boys and girls home from a picnic broke down and the children got out while repairs were being made.

Two policemen, identified as Motorcycle Policeman C. L. Borders and Patrolman W. W. Self who was off duty at the time, arrived on the scene and saw the group of children standing around

According to the NAACP's report, prepared by Emory C. Jackson, executive secretary, both policemen began cursing the children, then singled out the males for whistling at "white ladies."

Chaperone Cursed, Beaten

Chaperones of the children riding in another vehicle, it was reported, were also subjected to profane abuse by the officers, the only man preesnt, William E. Elston, a postal worker, being beaten when he did not get out of the car as quickly as the policemen thought he should. Sat. 8-23-47

Elston was taken to the Army Airfield Headquarters where he was abused again by a man called "Mr. Sapp," the NAACP report charged. Sapp pleaded to "let me finish him off" because I just hate every g.d. s.o.b. of n— living."

14e 1947

California

Anti-Police Brutality Group Calls For Probe Of Mistreatment

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Tues. 7-15-47

OAKLAND, Cal.—(ANP)— As the newly-formed Committee Against Police Brutality opened its campaign demanding that an official city commission be established to investigate police treatment of minority people, a new case of mistreatment was brought to light.

Louis J. Wilson, a member of the CIO United Railroad workers, who works as a freight handler for the Southern Pacific railroad, was arrested on the job May 22 by two Oakland plainclothes police inspectors.

He was taken to the Oakland city hall jail, locked up and held for five days without bail and with no formal charges brought against him.

Police termed it a routine investigation. Wilson has no police record.

He was refused permission to call his wife and was not until four days later that he was permitted to talk to anyone. He had no idea why he was being held until the FBI confronted him with a man who had told them Wilson had given him a gun he allegedly possessed.

GOV'T PROPERTY

The gun was government property and was said to have been stolen from freight in the Southern Pacific yards. This, however, was merely conjecture since both Wilson and his accuser had worked in the yards at the same time. Tues. 7-15-47

It was not until Wilson's frantic wife eventually contacted the law firm of Edises, Treuhaft and Condon, that the defendant was finally released through the action of Atty. Robert Treuhaft.

Wilson had somehow managed to get word to his wife to get in touch with the attorneys.

Federal District Judge Louis Goodman last week dismissed all charges against Wilson and sev ly upbraided the FBI for bringing the case into court, since no evidence had been presented.

When the Committee Against Police Brutality petitions the city council for a fulldress investigation of police behavior, they will have the case of Louis J. Wilson, among scores of others, to back up their demands. Tues. 7-15-47

14e 1947

Colorado

Denver Police Beat Injured Woman

Black Dispatch

DENVER — (ANP) — Police brutality is not confined alone to persons who are in fairly good health, but takes in those who are ill or convalescent also.

Oklahoma City, Okla.

That was what Miss Eloise Robinson, 24, discovered recently. Miss Robinson, who was convalescing from an auto accident, was set upon in Dew Drop inn here last May 13, and beaten by police officers for resisting the advances of a discharged soldier.

Sat. 6-7-47

According to her signed statement made to Atty, Samuel Menin of the local NAACP, she was in the cafe on the night of May 13, and Mitchell Marshall, white, asked to go out with her. A fight ensued between them when she resisted his advances.

At that time, Alvin Moore, newly assigned Negro member of the police force, came up behind her and twisted her arm. With Moore was Officer Gilbert, white.

"Had I known that they were near, I would not have fought back against Mitchell Marshall, but would have asked the officers to arrest the man that was annoying me," she said.

She said Moore continued to twist her arm and told her to go with him, though Gilbert told Moore to realese her. Taken to the military police station, the officers called the patrol wagon and Moore shoved her in it roughly when it arrived.

Then she said the beating was administered to her. There were two officers in the wagon, Patrolman Campbell, and another unidentified officer. Campbell, who was the larger one, grabbed Miss Robinson by the hair, dragged her to the front of the wagon, and said, "I'll take care of that Texas bitch," whereupon, he began striking her about the head and face.

Enroute to the city jail, Campbell told Mitchell that he could not beat the woman, after Mitchell asked "let me kick her." At the jail, Campbell told another officer that "we got this nigger bitch," and later while going to the cell, he said, "I'll teach these nigger bitches to fool with me. We tell them in Texas to do like we want them to do."

As a result of the beating, Miss Robinson's eye and head were in great pain, but the only first aid she received came from a Mexican prisoner who put a wet towel over her eye. Sat. 6-7-47

The beaten woman reported that she had been run over by a car three weeks prior to the Dew Drop inn incident. The car had pinned her down across the midriff and side. On orders from the attending physicians, she said she was not to work for three months. Patrolman Gilbert knew of her condition, she said, because he pronounced her dead at the accident

14e 1947

D. C.

Probe Of Mailman's Beating Is Ordered

(14e)

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA) — Major Harvey G. Gallahan, superintendent of police, last Friday ordered an immediate investigation into a mailman's report that he was beaten with night sticks by police here early Christmas.

Major Callahan directed Inspector Clarence Talley to check the story of Howard A. Maxwell, 26, a veteran with 18 months' overseas service, that he was beaten up "something awful" by two Eleventh Precient policemen.

According to affidavit sent to Major Callahan by Maxwell's attorney, Richard A. Harman, the mailman worked nearly 18 1-2 hours continously from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day. As he was driving home early Christmas, he decided he was too sleepy to drive his car, parked and began to walk, it was said. Fri. 1-17-47

Soon after this, Maxwell said, he was approached by an officer who abused him verbally and then struck him with his night stick. Maxwell, who spent almost five months overseas on military police duty, said he then struck the policemen and knocked him down.

BEATEN BODILY

A second policeman arrived and struck Maxwell with his stick, the mailman said. As he started to run, Maxwell said, one of the policemen drew his gun and fired. When he stopped and held up his hands, Maxwell said, they beat him badly before taking him to the station.

1-17-47

Maxwell was charged with being drunk and with assault, he said. He disclaimed the police assertion that he had "drawn a knife" on them. In his pocket he had a souvenir pocketknife brought back from Germany, Maxwell said, maintaining it was not used.

Through his attorney Maxwell asked that the two policemen be tried before the Police Trial Board on the charges.

Cop Brutality On Increase As Probe Stalls

[illegible] N.Y. N.Y.

WASHINGTON.—Police brutality in Washington marched on as ever today as the result of the objection of South Carolina's senator, Olin D. Johnston, to an appropriation to investigate the District of Columbia Police Department. The southerner's objections were palmed off on District citizens with the puny excuse that the new police chief, Maj. Robert J. Barrett, had not been in office long enough to be investigated. 8-3-47

Obstensibly the proposed Senate sub-committee was to investigate the crime report procedure in which the police "pocketed" the majority of official reports. This made the Washington force "efficient" in the eyes of the Nation as compared to other cities. It also kept a good portion of the public, Congress and the press ignorant of the abnormal rate of unsolved crimes.

In reality, police brutality, especially aimed at the Negro people, grows more serious day by day. An outstanding example is the case of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Smith, residents of the Benning Road area. On June 27, Mrs. Smth was living the life of a decent housewife. Today she and her husband are charged with assault.

About 5 p.m. of that afternoon, two men approached the Smith property with a bulldozer and drove through their garden despite being asked not to do so. Later the tractor returned, again driving over the garden. Mr. Smith ordered the operator off his property and scuffled with him. The operator left, and then returned with police. Mrs. Smith asked the officers to protect their property, whereupon she was told to shut up and one of the officers struck her. The Smiths retreated to the house only to be followed by a police lieutenant, who entered without a warrant.

Mr. Smith was set upon and beaten by eight officers. Mrs. Smith, attempting to protect her husband, was severely kicked, struck with a gun or blackjack and manacled. The officers then dragged her from the second floor by her feet a distance of 76 feet to the front yard.

The police, claiming later that they feared a "race riot" took Mrs. Smith to the Women's Bureau, charging assault, and her husband to the nearest precinct charging assult and battery.

This is not the only incident of such nature in recent history. At present, seven other cases are pending against various members of the police force, all involving brutality to Negroes. Leading the legal fight currently is the National Negro Congress. In the Smith case, the NNC is suing for damages and for dismissal of the officers taking part.

In addition, the NNC is requesting the Police Department to clarify its attitude on the race question; is demanding additional police protection in the inadequately patrolled northeast and southeast areas; is urging upgrading and promotion of Negro officers on the same basis as white and additional hiring of Negroes on the force. At present only about 1 percent of the Police Department personnel are Negro in contrast with a 28 percent ratio in population.

Vet Says D. C Cops Beat Him

Tues. 8-12-47

WASHINGTON, D. C.— (SNS) — Attorney for a 26-year-old veteran Julius Willie Clegg, filed a complaint with Police Superintendent Robert J. Barrett Thursday charging that his defendant was arrested by Washington police, allegedly detained for 34 hours and brutally beaten by them when no charges had been filed against him. Atlanta, Ga.

Atty. Roger Rob further charged that Clegg was denied the right to notify his wife or the Washington Post where he is employed. Tues. 8/12/47

Clegg was picked up as a suspect while on his way to work Saturday morning. He was never told why he was arrested, said Atty. Robb.

The attorney is asking that trial board and criminal charges be placed against the two policemen who assaulted the veteran at headquarters. Atlanta Daily World

In reply the Police Superintendent immediately ordered Chief of Detectives Floyd A. Truscott to conduct an investigation. Truscott said he would take action at once.

Innocent Vet Jailed, Beaten by D.C. Police

The Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

Two detectives were picked from a line-up late Friday by a war veteran as the men guilty of beating him at Police Headquarters, after the establishment of his innocence.

The identity of the 2 men, selected from among 10 detectives in the presence of Chief of Detectives Floyd A. Truscott, by Julius W. Clegg, 26, of 1106 21st St., N.E., will [illegible] be revealed until completion [illegible] investigation "about the middle of this week."

Inspector Truscott said the men will not be suspended until the full investigation bears out the charges filed by Clegg's attorney, Roger Robb. Sat. 8-16-47

Held Incommunicado 24 Hours

The complaint, given to Police Superintendent Robert J. Barrett by Robb, charged that Clegg was picked up as a suspect the morning of Aug. 2, while returning to work. He was never told why he was arrested and kept in jail incommunicado for 34 hours, Robb charged.

Clegg was denied the right to notify his wife or his employer. No charges were filed against him. He was beaten by questioning police after a line-up in which no one identified him, the complaint charged.

Wife Intimidated at First

Mrs. Clegg, when questioned by the AFRO, said that she found her husband after a 24-hour search. Her husband was released only after she threatened to obtain a writ of habeas corpus to compel his release from the First Precinct, where he was being held.

"It was only after they knew that I was no ignorant fool that they treated me as a lady. Prior to my threat to get a writ of habeas corpus, they were very nasty," Mrs. Clegg said.

Mrs. Clegg related how she was given the run-around by officers, and the attempt they made to intimidate her. One policeman, she said stated: "We can hold him as long as we want to, two or three months, doesn't make any difference." Sat-8-16-47

Capt. Robert Pearce, commanding officer of No. 1 Precinct, was on vacation, but the second in command, Charles J. A. Sullivan, said he would start his own investigation. Pvt. J. C Gibboney, the alleged arresting officer, would not comment on the action.

Was Out for Lunch

Clegg's story of the arrest, as told at his apartment, ran:

"I was window-shopping, when I happened to notice a 'white woman' get off a streetcar and get into an auto which drove off. Soon the car returned and the woman got out at about the same spot where she was picked up. She started walking along 13th St. towards E St.

"In the meantime, I noticed my lunch period was up so I started walking hurridly in the same direction, on my way to the Washington Post Building. Just then the same car which had picked her up came along and she started to run. I thought maybe she was running from the man (who was white) in the car.

"At the time, I was only about four or five feet from her when I heard someone running and as I turned, a policeman in uniform hollered, 'Hey, boy, wait.'

Woman Couldn't Identify Him

"I stopped and he came up and grabbed me by the back of the trousers. Soon there were several other policemen. The cop asked me if my trousers were unbottoned, at the same time looking to see, and I said no.

"Then the lady, who was wearing a waitress's uniform, came up and the policeman asked her, 'Is he the one?'

"She said: 'I don't know if he is the one or not, but he was coming behind me and I got frightened and that is why I ran.' Then the policeman told me to get in the car and go with him, and I asked if I could notify my job, and he said, 'No, come on.'"

After Clegg could not be identified at the line-up, he was taken to the Bureau's Sex Squad for further questioning.

He said one detective told him to sit down and then stated to the other, "I don't care if you kill the black s..o..b."

Still Receiving Treatment

Clegg, still nervous from the incident, then related how the two officers beat him on the head with their fists and slapped him across the face with their open hands.

Mrs. Clegg said that when her husband returned home there were no lacerations, but his face was swollen. He has been off from work ever since, under the treatment of Dr Hugh Brown.

Attorney Calls for Action

Mr. Robb, in his letter to the chief of police, declared that such action was outrageous, and requested: Sat-8-16-47

1. That you prefer charges before the trial board against the officer responsible for the unlawful arrest and detention of Clegg.
2. That you prefer charges before the trial board against the commanding officer of No. 1 Precinct who permitted such unlawful detention.
3. That you prefer charges, both before the trial board and in the criminal courts, against the officers who assaulted Clegg at headquarters.

Held in "Spite" Wararnt Before

Inspector Truscott, in a statement to the press when he first began the investigation, said that Clegg, who police records show has never been in the custody of police before last Saturday, was arrested once for assault and battery.

Police

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 8-23-47

WASHINGTON POLICE in defense of their failure to make any record of a lot of crimes, contend that residents make many false reports of robberies etc. But a well known white resident brought out another side to the picture in a letter to the editor:

"I feel convinced that many complaints are never brought to the police by the victims in the first instance, that many assaults and holdups occur in the District that the police never hear of—particularly among Negroes . . . the experience of my Negro employee was most revealing.

"After being robbed at point of a knife he (he is from the North) rusned instinctively to the precinct station. One brush with the District police was enough. He was made to feel he was the criminal, instead of the victim, and he was most reluctant to confront the police again. It was revealing to me that his wife (she's lived years in the District) urged him not to go to the police. His friends here also told him it would do no good. Perhaps a hundred District Negroes heard of this case and discussed it. Do you think that anyone of that hundred is likely to go to the police if he is victimized himself?"

Criticize D. C. Police Methods

Tues. 9-2-47 Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON 7 (ANP) — Not content with using the pen against the sword, or the typewriter against the night-stick, the press took the air Sunday night to give police brutality in this city a verbal beating.

Appearing on the regular weekly broadcast of Americans All program over Radio Station WWDC, Mrs. Alice Dunnigan of the Associated Negro Press, Woody Taylor of the Washington Afro-American and Craig R. Means of the Pittsburgh Courier orally lashed Washington police for unnecessarily beating and manhandling individuals in making arrest.

Speaking in interest of the weaker sex, Mrs. Dunnigan vividly described the cruel and inhuman treatment employed by police in arresting women. As concrete illustrations, she cited four specific examples, the two most recent cases reported to the NAACP, the latest one reported to the National Negro Congress, and a brutal case occurring some time ago, which she said was so cruel that the city had probably not yet recovered from the shock of it.

The two cases handles by the NAACP are the case of Mrs. Carrie Gray and the case of Mrs. Estelle Brandon. Mrs. Gray was arrested in her own home, charged with being drunk, choked and beaten by police until she had to be carried to the hospital where stitches were taken in her head, before she could be carried to the Women's Bureau. Continuously bleeding so profusely, she had to be carried to another hospital where the two wounds in her head had to be restitched and redressed. Tues. 9-2-47

Mrs. Brandon was arrested while standing in her own yard around midnight. She was kicked by police, struck in the ribs with their night sticks, slapped in the face and railroaded off to the Women's Bureau for disorderly conduct.

In the case of Mrs. Smith, which is being investigated by the National Negro Congress, a policeman is alleged to have slapped her in the face when she objected to a bulldozer passing through her property destroying her flower bed. In her anger, she slapped the policeman back. This led to her arrest, where she was dragged by the heels all the way downstairs, through the dining room and kitchen and carried in handcuffs to the precinct and arrested for disorderly conduct.

WEBB CASE CITED

In the case of Miss Olive Webb which happened a little more than a year ago, she was kicked off the street car by a policeman who was off duty, thrown to the platform, jerked up to her feet and dragged to the sidewalk with her arms twisted behind her. While in that position, she was struck over the head with a bottle of whiskey by the plain-clothes policeman. This came about because Miss Webb protested to a white woman who practically ran over her while she was attempting to board a car, on which the woman was leaving Pushing Miss Webb aside, the woman ordered her "to get out of my way!" When Miss Webb protested, the "off-duty" policeman intervened. Not knowing he was a cop Miss Webb asked what he had to do with it. He then told her she was under arrest for disorderly conduct and proceeded to beat her. She was hauled off to the Women's Bureau where she was held an hour and a half before being allowed medical treatment.

Daily World

Speaking from the men's angle, Mr. Taylor cited similar cases in which men were beaten up, placing special emphasis on the widely publicized case of Julius W. Clegg.

Atlanta, Ga.

Pinch-hitting for Robert Taylor editor of the Washington edition of the Pittsburgh Courier, Graig R Means, in his introductory remarks, gave a brief overall picture of police brutailty upon the citizens of the District of Columbia.

Julius W. Clegg, who was scheduled to appear on the program telling his own story, was advised by his attorney to make no public statement, as his case is still pending. Tues. 9-2-47

Tomlinson D. Todd, president of the Institute of Race Relations, closed the discussion with brief remarks.

POLICE BRUTALITY RUNS AMUCK IN CAPITOL OF THE NATION

Black dispatch, Okla. City, Okla.

Ex-Soldier Clubbed Unmercifully When Woman Runs

Sat. 8-30-47

(142)

WOMAN ALSO ASSAULTED

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The tide of police brutality continues to ride high in the District of Columbia. The latest reported victim is Julius G. Clegg, 26-year-old war veteran and an employe of the Washington Post.

In a complaint filed by Atty. Roger Robb, Clegg charges he was picked up as a suspect last Saturday morning while returning to work; beaten by police, even after his innocence had been established; and kept in jail for 34 hours.

Clegg's account of the incident said that he was working on the mid-night to 8 a. m. shift; that on Saturday, after taking his lunch hour about 5:30 a. m., he went window-shopping. He saw a white woman get off a street-car and enter an automobile which drove away. The car returned in a few minutes, the woman got out and began walking down the street.

Noticing that his time was up, Clegg started back to the newspaper office, walking down the same side of the street. Just then, he said the car returned, and the woman started to run. He thought she was running from the man in the car.

A policeman ran down the street. grabbed him by the seat of his trousers and held him until he was joined by other policemen. Among the questions the victim was asked was "Wrere your trousers unbottened ?" He replied that they were not. Sat. 8-30-47

The woman came back and said she did not know if Clegg was the man who was after her, but because he was coming up behind her, she became frighten and ran.

Taken to the first precinct station, he was denied the use of the phone to call his job or his wife. At 7 that evening, he was taken to the line-up to be identified, but no one could point him out as a possible suspect. From there, he went to the bureau's sex squad for further questioning.

The questioning began with one detective saying "I don't care if you kill the black son-of-a-bitch." Then one policeman hit him in the back of the head, and another struck him in the face four or five times when he attempted to sheild his neck. He was told, "Don't be ducking when this man hits you."

He was ordered to sign a typewritten sheet, but refused on the grounds he had not read it. For this refusal he was struck again, and told "If I had been the one who arrested you, I would have killed you."

Upon leaving the office, Clegg was warned never to come back again, or both his eyes would be shot out. Sat. 8-30-47

Meanwhile, Clegg's wife had been calling the hospitals and police to find her husband, "but no one knew where he was." She then discovered he had been returned to the first precinct station, and it was not until she threatened to obtain a writ of haveas corpus that her husband was permitted to leave.

The father of two children, Clegg came to the Washington Post as a messenger 19 months ago, just after demoblization from the coast guard, and had been promoted several times. He was injured during the Normandy beachhead landings. He said he had never been arrested before and had "never molested any woman, white or colored."

His case is just one of many brought to light in the capital. Recently the National Negro congress filed charges with Maj. Robert J. Barnett for police manhandling of Mrs. Bernice Smith. Mrs. Smith had protested the overrunning of her property by a bulldozer. One policeman hit her in the face and another struck her with a pistol.

Since June 21, five cases of police brutality have been recorded with the NAACP, according to Allyn Hill, executive secretary.

"Throughout the year, many complaints have reached this office. These cases occur now almost weekly. The branch feels that something must be done immediately to remove from the police force, those officers who use their position to indulge in sadistic orgies.

According to Woolsey W. Hall, president of Federation of Civic associations, "The majesty of the law is all that is required to ferret out crime, not brutality on the part of the law enforcement officers."

Jim Crow . . . In Washington

New Republic

New York, N. Y.

On his way to work early one morning Julius Clegg, 26, a Negro war veteran employed by the Washington *Post*, was picked up by the police on complaint of a waitress that someone had made lewd remarks to her. Thirty-four hours later Clegg stumbled from jail bruised and bleeding. The waitress had been unable to identify him so he had been released without charges. While in jail, Clegg charged, two detectives beat and mauled him. Perhaps, in the long run, Clegg was better served than his brothers in the South. The Washington *Post* splashed his story on the front page and forced a grand-jury investigation of police brutality.

9-8-47

Convict D.C. Policeman Who Enforced Bias

2-15-47 Sept.

Chicago DEFENDER

(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A Capitol policeman who made a strong-arm attempt to enforce Jim Crow on trolley cars here, was promptly slapped down by a District Court which found him guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon growing out of his "law enforcing."

The one-man Jim Crow squad—James A. Burcham—was convicted by an all-white jury after an hour's deliberation. He is free on a $500 bond and will be sentenced late this week. Moreover, Burcham has been fired from the Capitol police force. Chicago Ill.

Burcham boarded a local street car on June 7, and brandishing a knife, herded all Negroes on the car to the rear. "Get in the back

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by kindness through the ages.

At the conclusion of Rev. Kerry's first appearance here in 1945, a Good Citizenship League was organized. The league has worked toward better conduct among

Early Arrests In Fernandina Cutting Likely

Jacksonville Journal
Jacksonville, Fla.
Sat. 7-5-47

Sheriff H. J. Youngblood of Fernandina said today he "had some names" of negroes suspected in the stabbing of two deputies at American Beach last night, and that he "expected to make some arrests soon."

14e Fla.

The two officers, who were knifed and beaten when they attempted to break up a dice game on the beach, were Deputy H. A. Adams and Acting Deputy Jack Daniel. Adams was rushed to St. Vincent's hospital here with an apparently serious chest wound, but an operation at midnight revealed that no vital organs had been pierced. He was reported in "fair" condition today.

Daniel, who sustained cuts on the arms, was brought to Nassau County hospital at Fernandina, where his condition was not considered serious. He was expected to be discharged today.

Sheriff Youngblood said the stabbing had occurred when the two policemen ordered a group of "15 or 20" negroes to break up a dice game. One of the negroes flashed a knife, they said, and when they attempted to arrest him the others attacked them. Sat. 7-5-47

Adams and Daniels said their weapons were grabbed at the start of the affray, and that they fought for 10 minutes before they could reach their patrol car, 40 feet away. As they drove off, radioing for help, the car was pelted with stones and bottles.

The Nassau County sheriff armed and deputized 30 men and rushed them to the scene, but the negroes had dispersed before their arrival. It was estimated that several thousand negroes were on the beach, which is reserved for their use, but 30 minutes later the area was entirely cleared.

A drawbridge connecting the beach island with the mainland was ordered raised, and when it was lowered later police checked all cars leaving the vicinity.

Sheriff Youngblood said he was keeping a patrol of at least six men on the beach today, although most of the excitement had died down this morning and bathing was going on as usual. Meanwhile other county police were investigating several negroes suspected of involvement in the stabbing incident.

TWO DEPUTY SHERIFFS BEATEN, DISARMED AND STABBED AT BEACH OUTING

The Fla. ~~Tattler~~ Tattler

Highway To Jax Blocked

~~Jacksonville, Fla.~~ Jacksonville, Fla. sat. 7-12-47

Instead of the usual Fourth of July celebration at the nationally famous American Beach, it was knives and bottles plus a lot of kicking.

Two versions of the incident were reported to the Tattler. One faction reported that a woman was kicked by one of the deputies. Another faction reported that the deputy was trying to break up illegal gaming.

In each fracas the deputies were disarmed, beaten and very roughly manhandled. The radio in their car was destroyed.

Assistance from the Duval County Patrol was given in quelling the anticipated riot and free-for-all.

Both deputies were taken to the hospital, one in a very serious condition and the other was discharged after first aid had been administered.

A Jacksonville youth is being held as a suspect and a list of names of other suspects are being investigated.

Several beach visitors stated that the deputies were collecting bribe money from most of the automobile owners, and if they did not have $15.00 and $25.00 they were arrested. Watches, autos, etc. are taken in lieu of money. This has been going on for over two years.

Some are of the belief that the Nassau situation should be investigated by the state officials from Tallahassee.

The incident is bad both ways and we regret it very much.

The deputies did not use common sense and the Negroes only protected themselves from the brutal treatment administered by the law. Sat. 7-12-47

It was also reported that Sheriff Youngblood was not responsible. The two deputies are special appointees and are not under the Sheriff's supervision.

The two deputies go-for-who-tied-the-bear and are always slapping Negro men and women.

One road patrolman prevented one of the deputies from shoot- innocent Negro boy.

CHINAMAN RUNS NEGRO WOMAN—

The Jacksonville, Fla. Tattler

Around 1:15 o'clock on Sunday morning, July 13, in the 700 block on West Ashley Street, a Chinaman with knife in hand was chasing a Negro woman. Sat. 7-19-47

The woman ran toward Jefferson Street and escaped, but the police sat in their car eating barbecue and looking. The police did not even get out of the car. The woman could have been cut to death, and the police would have been responsible. This is another reason why we need Negro walking policemen.

The Chinaman seemed to have been a little "off the beam," because he gave chase to several others who stood nearby.

Miami Cleric Asks Probe Of Brutality

Courier, Pittsburgh
(14e) Fla.
Pa. Sat. 11-15-47

MIAMI—Devout worshippers at First Unitarian Church here, white, were thrown into a turmoil Sunday when a petition was circulated calling for a grand jury investigation of alleged police brutality. The action of the congregation followed the preaching of a sermon by the pastor, the Rev. Joseph Barth, on "Causes of Police Brutality in Miami."

Nor did Dr. Barth confine his sermon to police brutality alone. He also scathingly denounced the suspected white arsonists, who fired the homes of two Negro families, which had been moved near a street, which forms the dividing line between the two races, less than a fortnight ago.

CAUSTIC REMARKS

The unleashing of the cleric's all-out attack on police brutality followed closely behind last week's announcement that Miami had been chosen as the convention site for the 1948 National American Legion. Caustic in his remarks, Dr. Barth cited as contributary to police brutality:

1. Individual policemen, who take their ignorance, fear, prejudices and hatreds to work with them;
2. Defects in the police system;
3. Public apathy.

Dr. Barth was decidedly of the opinion that there are far less "ignorant, prejudiced" policemen on the Miami force than ever before. He attributed this accomplishment to City Manager Richard G. Danner.

The resolution which is directed to the City Commission, asks it "to select a panel of outstanding, tolerant and intelligent citizens, from which members of the grand jury may be selected."

Reading from a report prepared by Atty. Leo Sheiner, retained by the local NAACP branch, Dr. Barth cited three instances of shootings, two of which were fatal to Negroes.

Shot on Aug. 17 was Bassie Tiggs whom the arresting officer, Ernest Hayes, said was seen brandishing a "shiny thing." Tiggs recovered from his injuries. Hayes was exonerated.

On the same day Detroit Robinson was shot by an off-duty policeman riding with another whose car barely avoided a collision with the car in which Robinson was a passenger. Robinson died and Judge Ferguson held the killing "justifiable."

Sept. 7 Patrolman R. D. Weigand of South Miami, shot and killed A. C. Hopkins, following an argument concerning the latter being drunk. Weigand has been bound over to the grand jury on second-degree murder charges. Several witnesses testified that Hopkins was shot in the back as he walked away from Weigand saying, "If you shoot me, you shoot me for nothing."

14e 1947

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ROBERT QUILLEN

Constitution

They Abuse Their Power

Atlanta Ga.

14e

Thomas Walsh writes excellent detective stories for one of our best weekly magazines.

As one of the editors said recently, he knows his subject. For years he has associated with cops. He knows how they act, how they talk and how their their minds work. Sun. 11-9-47

In his last story, three cops with conflicting ideas and different methods set out to find the person who murdered a certain heel. They suspect his wife, and two of them stop her as she is about to board a train at 10 p. m.

They do not arrest or accuse her, but only hold her for questioning—which is a violation of law in every State of the Union.

ONE COP thinks there is a boy friend in the case, and headquarters takes steps to guard all the exits. At a filling station where the cop is waiting, a taxi pulls in for gas. There is one passenger in the taxi—a man who might be a murderer or a saint.

The cop makes him get out of the taxi, examines his credentials, and then demands: "Who did that job out in Greentree Road, Romeo? You or the broad?"

The man has been polite and respectful. He smiles and says: "Out where? I'm sorry, officer. I don't think—"

The cop lets him get that far and then "slaps him across the mouth twice, solidly, in an open-handed but brutal manner."

For what reason? So far as the cop knows, the man is guilty of no crime or offense. In any case, he is not in Nazi Germany, but is a free man in a free country. And the law forbids any man, cop or private citizen, to assault him.

Walsh's story is not an expose of police brutality. He is a realist, telling the thing as he thinks it would happen.

BUT WHERE is it common police practice to slap citizens vaguely suspected of crime?

Not long ago a sheriff in South Carolina struck a Negro prisoner. He admitted doing it, but said the Negro called him a name he couldn't take.

The sheriff was severely punished. As I remember it, the judge said something to the effect that a man who can't endure any insult from a prisoner without striking him isn't qualified to be an officer.

More recently, two State officcers in North Carolina (which seems sensitive about its good name) caught an escaped prisoner and assumed the duty of punishing him. Exactly what they did was not established in any court, but at least they hit him and it cost them their job.

These matters deserve more consideration than they get. We've got to have police, and all good citizens should automatically side with them, as they do in England. But many good people fear or resent or dislike cops, and the reason for it is abuse of power. If one man is slapped today, you may be slapped tomorrow.

Terrors of The Police State

Black Dispatch

14e

There are a lot of people in the United States today, when discussions of food and rent controls arise, declaim about the terrors of a police state and declare vehemently that government is moving too far into personal and private identity.

Most people associate police solely with crime, never knowing that in some countries of the old world police regulate commerce and trade and are constantly snooping around sticking their noses into every form of civilian life. Government under such inquisition ceases to be that of free men and the innocent along with the guilty must constantly stand in fear of snooping minions of the law.

Hitler's gestapo created the worst form of the police state, where government sought in actuality to control even the thinking of the people, and where some minor official of the state could overnight inform on the individuals suspicioned that reprisals and punishment could be visited upon the citizens without recourse to jury trial or privilege to face accusers. Sat. 12-20-47

The Hitler regime revived the old Spanish Inquisition or the English Star Chamber centuries ago, when men clothed with authority committed flagrant accesses upon the slightest suspicion that citizens had violated some whim and caprice of the ruling class. The founding fathers were thinking about medieval tyranny when they wrote the American Constitution. That is the basic reason for the Bill of Rights included in that document. In a police state there is ample room for small, selfish men to inject their petty prejudices and dislikes, and that is the reason why modern thinking inclines towards a government of laws rather than a government of men.

But despite the aversion for the police state among free men, few Americans realize that public policy in the United States has held the black man in such an unwholesome environment during all of his stay here in America. Slight concern is attached to the constitutional guarantees that theoretically surround the black citizen, and he is constanly subject to the embarrassments, ridicule and torture of unjustifiable regulation, regimentation and discipline not common to other citizens.

The mob, the Ku Klux Klan, the Columbians, Vigilantes and all types of under-cover private groups police the lives of the Negro from the moment he comes into this world until he dies. These groups have semi-sanction in the government structure or they otherwise could not exist. The teen-age white boy has full knowledge of this arbitrary power he has over the lives of the blacks and likewise it is drilled into subconscious stratums of black life that this sinister power to destroy liberty lurks continually in his path.

Whites become immediately frightened when there looms for him government regulation respecting the price of food, rents and housing, but what must be the eternal misery of the black man who must, outside the precincts of the written statutes, accept unbridled regulation respecting whom he shall talk to, whom he may marry, where he shall live, how he shall travel and where he will sit down to eat? Even down to primary calls of nature such a defecation the black man and woman find themselves in the vicious grip of a police state.

A sensational young blond sometime ago, wearing an extremely abbreviated dress, sat down in a southern bus terminal. She crossed her limbs exhibiting considerable portions of her body that are considered taboo. Without any provocation whatsoever, other than a young Negro sitting in front of her was looking in her direction, and apparently was not blind, the young woman fairly screamed in protest to the fact that an American citizen was using his eyes. The Negro made no response to the invective heaped upon him by this white girl, but an old white man, seated near the Negro, assumed command of the situation and advised the foolish girl, "If you'll add a few more inches to that skirt and sit down in public like your mother taught you, you'll have no further difficulty with me or anybody else in the depot."

Now here was a Negro policed because he did not rush out of the depot when he saw a show. The old white gentleman was trying to tell the young woman he had been making the same identical observations the young black man could not fail to see. The difference was his eyes were not policed. The Negro's was.

Police enter a room finding there a black man and a white woman. Immediately, and despite the fact that the conference they behold may be of the most wholesome nature, vile questions are propounded to the pair which never would be asked were the two parties white. This is the police state in action.

Just last week in Oklahoma City the telephone number of a Negro woman, sitting by her own fireside, was called. She answered. Think of it! Right at Christmastide when every American citizen should be enjoying tranquility and happiness, that this poor, humble black woman would be errorized with the warning, "Unless you are out of your home by morning you will be bombed." This sort of vicious persecution continued all evening. The police state is an unholy atmosphere where people can be told when to go to sleep, when to wake up, and where to live.

The right to work is policed for the Negro in almo every section of America. Sometimes the black man o woman gets on the job. He lasts a few weeks and then som thing happens. Somebody said something to somebod Perhaps it was the chamber of commerce in the town whic decided in open meeting that none of the jobs in that com munity would be parceled out to Negroes. Perhaps it wa because the black man or woman objected to being shove around by underlings whose faces were white. The net result is that the black worker was policed out of his job.

"I'd just as soon feed you as anybody else," said a whit restaurant proprietor to a hungry black man, "but unfo tunately if I feed you my white customers will quit," an so the Negro traveler must drive another half day hungry with his stomach caving in because some dominant prejudice in community life is policing his belly.

This writer, along with several very prominent Memphis blacks, drove almost a half day through the uncivilized wilds of Mississippi several years ago because somehow the white people in Mississippi consider it very important to police that black man's bowels. Relief came when we discovered a Negro churchyard, where we found relief in the twilight hours.

Brutal Columbus Police Suspended

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Sat. 6-28-47

COLUMBUS—(SNS)— Officers W. C. Sapp and J. H. Hawkins were suspended from the city police force here by the Board of Public Safety Wednesday as a result of a charge brought forth by a Fort Benning Negro soldier, 1st Sgt. Raphael Showell, claiming that Officer Sapp assaulted him and threatened his life.

Sgt. Showell charged that Officer Sapp threatened to "put a .38 right between his eyes" following a collision between an Army bus and an automobile occupied by Policemen Sapp and Hawkins early Sunday.

During the three and a half hour hearing, Showell told the board how the officers kicked and slapped him, calling him a "smart n----", when he alighted from the bus after the collision.

Showell's story as told to the board is as follows:

"I was in charge of an Army bus returning ladies to Columbus from a barbecue we had on the post reservation. We had reached Fourth ave., and Fifth st., and had seen most everyone home.

"We collided with the rear of a civilian car as we started to turn into Fifth st. The driver, Cpl. Rayford, brought the bus to a stop.

"Two officers got out of the other car and came over and demanded who was drivng the bus. I got out of the bus and told the officers I was in charge and that an accident card would be made out. Sat. 6-28-47

SMART "TAG"

"They said, 'who told you to say anything and then they kicked and slapped me. One officer shouted 'you're a smart n---.'

"They told me to get back in the and then they made me get out again. They beat me some more and Officer Sapp said 'I'll put a .38 right between your eyes.' "

Showell exhibited bruises on his left leg which he declared were caused by kicks from the officers.

DENIED ADMISSION

In reply to statement by Military policeman James B. Carter that he (Showell) had admitted to him that he "had brought the beating from the Officers on himself," Showell emphatically denied that he ever made such admission.

He also denied that he had cursed the officers as they had claimed.

No one on the bus was under the influence of intoxicants, said the victim.

Cpl. Rayford, driver of the bus testified that the officer made Showell get in and out of the bus three time. "One of them asked Sgt. Showell if he didn't know how to talk to a white man," the driver said.

The officers were said to have been off duty at the time of the accident, and Policemen R. M. Rand and C. D Jones were the officers who investigated and made a report of it. Sat. 6-28-47

Officer Rand testified that "Sapp was not drunk and had control of his senses, but I could detect a faint odor of alcohol on his breath."

Harvey Randall, manager of Choppy's Place said that prior to the accident, he and Officer Sapp had stepped into his office and had a few mugs of beer.

THREATENS "SAME THING"

Officer Rand said that he detected the odor of alcohol when he stepped into the bus to investigate. "If I was confronted with the same situation that faced Officer Sapp, I expect I would have done the same thing," said Rand.

Staff Sgt. Dale H. Keoun, a military policeman testified he was called to the scene of the accident but never heard Sgt. Showell admit he was to blame for the trouble with the police officers. Sat. 6-28-47

SAPP'S TESTIMONY

Sapp stated that Showell jumped out of the bus in his face. He admitted slapping him but denied that he kicked the victim. Showell returned to the bus and got out again, said Sapp, and wanted to know why I had struck him "I said nothing," said Sapp, "but went ahead with my check on the wreck."

"When Showell jumped out of the bus, I thought he had some kind of weapon. Later he used profane language and I slapped him again," said Sapp. He was calling someone some names under his breath."

The questions put to Officers Sapp Rand and Randall, of Choppy's place, were asked by Captain Charles R. Zimmer, assistant judge advocate of the Infantry school.

In passing suspension on the officers, Chairman Allen Woodall, of the Board of Public Safety, said, "If the evidence we heard had not been contradictory, we should have relieved both of you of your badges. This board feels when you were given a badge it did not entitle you to unusual privileges. When you wear the police badge, you must be careful at all times to conduct yourself as a gentleman. We cannot condone drinking and the use of force."

Captain Zimmer and Lt. Col. William C. Coulburn, judge advocate of the Infantry school, represented Ft. Benning. Sat. 6-28-47

Trial Slated In McDonough Week Of July 21

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Sun. 7-13-47

Assault Charges Laid Against Duo, Police Victims

The Atlanta Daily World learned Thursday, that the citizens of Locust, Georgia, will hold a series of mass meetings to map strategy and discuss means of securing adequate legal defence for the Sims Brothers, slated to go on trial in the Henry County Superior, at McDonough, Georgia, when court re-convenes between July 21 and 25.

The Sims brothers, Kirby, 20 and John Richard, 26 will face charges of assault and battery with intent to murder. According to authenic sources, however, they have committed no crimes, but were merely unfortunate victims of police brutality, which has been rather prevalent in Locust Grove for several years.

CITIZENS AROUSED

The citizens of Locust Grove have been aroused over the incident, which included the shooting of Kirby a Locust Grove policeman, on May 5, 1946 and the subsequent arrest and beating of John Richard, for merely attempting to help his brother off the rail road after he had been shot through the abdomen The real mystery is, why were they charged with intent to murder. Neither had weapons. That is why plans have been made to raise funds to assist the Sims with their attorney fees. Sun. 7-13-47

Eye-witnesses accounts of the shooting are as follows:

The Sims brothers, acompanied their aunt to the railway station for the train enroute to Atlanta to arrive in Locust Grove from Macon. Together with several other colored people, also waiting on the train, they were standing under the only light at the station, when the officers drove up and ordered them to get back into the "dark" colored waiting room.

As the Negroes were quietly moving to the back, Policeman Harold Craig is reported to have kicked Kirby in the abdomen and a scuffled sued, with officer shooting the youngster. Weakened by the bullet in his abdomen, Kirby fell on the track, and when John Richard started to help him up, Officer Grover Patrick is alleged to have thrown his gun and ordered him not to move.

BRUTALLY BEATEN

Meanwhile, John Richard, a veteran of World War II, with three years service overseas to his credit was rushed all to jail and later brutally beaten by the officers. A white youth is said to heve rushed Kirby to McDonough for medical care and he was later brought to Grady Hospital. Sun. 7-13-47

When informed about the incident, James Sims, father of the youths went to see if he could get John Richard out of jail, so that they could come to Atlanta to arrange for medical care for Kirby. Mayor Emmett Daniel and Officer only refused his request, but threatened to shoot his head off. Then Patrick are reported to have not the officers are reported to have driven all of the Negroes away from the railway station. John Richard was later released on $500 bond.

Citizens Take Up Unfair Smith Case

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Fri. 7-4-47

Robert L. Smith, of 131 Elm St., postal employee recently sentenced to four years imprisonment for public indecency by Judge John McClelland, of Fulton Criminal Court, is currently out on a $2,000 bond, which was put up by the local branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employees.

The sentence imposed on Smith has evoked national reaction as well as local. Sentiment expressed is that due consideration was not given to extinuating circumstances surrounding the case.

Smith testified in court that he was on duty at the time of his arrest and stopped at a desolate wooded spot in the Buckhead section to relieve himself since no toilet facilities were available to colored transients in the section. Some white women who reportedly happen to be passing by are said to have seen Smith and preferred charges against him. Fri. 7-4-47

CLAIMS "DOGGING"

When county officers came up to arrest Smith, they kicked, cursed and slapped him, Smith related. One of them is purported to have prevailed upon him to run in order that he could "shoot a n----r". Smith claims that the arrest was made on Sunnyside road and after "dogging" him, the officers carried him down to the station house where where two other white men dressed in civilian clothes beat him about the face and head with a blackjack in an attempt to make him plead guilty to the indecent exposure charge.

The officer did not stop there, declared Smith, but went to his home and entered it without presenting a warrant and turned it "upside down", while intimidating his wife with abusive remarks.

After the officers had made their search of the house, they are purported to have stated that they were looking for a diamond ring and a kodak. (Strangely enough such items were said to have been missing from the Refoule home, following the garroting of Mrs. Peggy A. Refoule, whose murder is yet unsolved.) Fri. 7-4-47

Smith had performed his duty as postal employee for six or seven years and was considered to be an efficient worker. He has had no previous criminal record.

The local branch of the National Postal Alliance has taken the case under consideration for the purpose of appealing the case, while other organizations have also appeared aroused over the matter.

Memphis World

Memphis, Tenn.

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Showell's story as told to the board is as follows:

"I was in charge of an Army bus returning ladies to Columbus from a barbecue we had on the post reservation. We had reached Fourth ave., and Fifth st., and had seen most everyone home.

"We collided with the rear of a civilian car as we started to turn into Fifth st. The driver, Cpl. Rayford, brought the bus to a stop.

"Two officers got out of the other car and came over and demanded who was drivng the bus. I got out of the bus and told the officers I was in charge and that an accident card would be made out.

SMART "TAG"

"They said, 'who told you to say anything and then they kicked and slapped me. One officer shouted 'you're a smart n---.'

"They told me to get back in the and then they made me get out again. They beat me some more and Officer Sapp said 'I'll put a .38 right between your eyes.' "

Showell exhibited bruises on his left leg which he declared were caused by kicks from the officers.

DENIED ADMISSION

In reply to statement by Military policeman James B. Carter that he (Showell) had admitted to him that he "had brought the beating from the Officers on himself," Showell emphatically denied that he ever made such admission.

He also denied that he had cursed the officers as they had claimed.

No one on the bus was under the influence of intoxicants, said the victim.

Cpl. Rayford, driver of the bus, testified that the officer made Showell get in and out of the bus three time. "One of them asked Sgt. Showell if he didn't know how to talk to a white man," the driver said.

The officers were said to have been off duty at the time of the accident, and Policemen R. M. Rand and C. D. Jones were the officers who investigated and made a report of it. Tues. 7-1-47

Officer Rand testified that "Sapp was not drunk and had control of his senses, but I could detect a faint odor of alcohol on his breath."

Harvey Randall, manager of Choppy's Place said that prior to the accident, he and Officer Sapp had stepped into his office and had a few mugs of beer.

THREATENS "SAME THING"

Officer Rand said that he detected the odor of alcohol when he stepped into the bus to investigate. "If I was confronted with the same situation that faced Officer Sapp, I expect I would have done the same thing," said Rand.

Staff Sgt. Dale H. Keoun, a military policeman testified he was called to the scene of the accident but never heard Sgt. Showell admit he was to blame for the trouble with the police officers.

SAPP'S TESTIMONY

Sapp stated that Showell jumped out of the bus in his face. He admitted slapping him but denied that he kicked the victim. Showell returned to the bus and got out again, said Sapp, and wanted to know why I had struck him "I said nothing," said Sapp, "but went ahead with my check on the wreck."

"When Showell jumped out of the bus, I thought he had some kind of weapon. Later he used profane language and I slapped him again," said Sapp. He was calling someone some names under his breath."

The questions put to Officers Sapp Rand and Randall, of Choppy's place, were asked by Captain Charles R. Zimmer, assistant judge advocate of the Infantry school.

In passing suspension on the officers, Chairman Allen Woodall, of the Board of Public Safety, said, "If the evidence we heard had not been contradictory, we should have relieved both of you of your badges. This board feels when you were given a badge it did not entitle you to unusual privileges. When you wear the police badge, you must be careful at all times to conduct yourself as a gentleman. We cannot condone drinking and the use of force."

Captain Zimmer and Lt. Col. William C. Coulburn, judge advocate of the Infantry school, represented Ft. Benning. Tues. 7-1-47

Atlanta Daily Wor

Citizen Tells Of Brutality By Officer

Atlanta, Ga.

Tues. 8/5/47

Charles Briscoe, of 6?1 Houston Street, N. E., submitted the following missive for publication:

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN--I am a law abiding, tax-paying, hard working citizen who has lived in Atlanta in one location for almost thirty-four years.

"While my organization, Prince Hall Shriners of North and South America. and its jurisdiction are in the midst of an all-out effort to rasie fifty thousand dollars to contribute to the National Tuberculosis and Cancer Research Fund for the benefit of the whole population, in comparison, here is what goes on in our city. Tues 8-5-4

"Last Monday, at about 10 p. m., while on my way home, a lady and I were talking, standing almost at the corner of Fortune Street and Highland Avenue. A car came by and stood momentarily at the fore mentioned corner. We both thought it was someone who knew one of us. Suddenly a light was flashed. We still didn't recognize who it was, so he (a policeman) asked: 'Where are you going BOY?" I said, 'I'm going home.' His next remark was, 'Listen, little d---, sassy n---, you don't know who you're talking to. Whose shoes are those?' I said, 'Mine.' Then he alighted from his car, flashing his flashlight in my eyes and apparently maneuvering to get behind me. I held up my right hand in which there were two pairs of shoes, and in my left hand were some coat hangers. He then said, 'Walk in front of me, you d---- black bas---.' As I started walking, afraid to look back, he said, 'I ought to fill you full of lead.' When I reached Highland Avenue, he said, 'What's your name?' I answered. He next asked 'Where do you work?' I answered that. He then said,' You'd better stand on a corner under the light because there's to much of that stuff going on.'

"It was very obvious that he was off duty because his passenger was a lady. He was short, wearing glasses. I'm forced to wonder why we have to pay taxes and if that is the kind of Democracy we are supposed to cherish." 8-5-47

Columbus Cops Suspended For Assault on Soldier

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier Sat. 7-5-47

By Special Crespondent

COLUMBUS, Ga.—The Columbus Board of Public Safety last week suspended Officers W. C Sapp and J. H. Hawkins from the city police force for fifteen days after a Negro soldier charged the motorcycle patrolmen assaulted him and threatened his life.

The chairman of the Board told the officers that "if the evidence we heard had not been contradictory, we feel sure we would have relieved both of you of your badges."

First Sergeant Raphael Showell of Philadelphia told the board during a three and a half hour long hearing that Officer Sapp threatened to "put a thirty-eight right between my eyes."

AUTO COLLISION

An Army bus with five Negro occupants collided with an automobile driven by Policeman Sapp early the previous Sunday. The officers were off duty at the time. Sat. 7-5-47

Showell said the officers kicked and slapped him and called him a "smart n----r."

The officer admitted he slapped Showell twice when the first sergeant allegedly "leaped out of the bus with his hand in his pocket right at me" and when he allegedly used profane language.

Showell was represented by Lieut. Col. William C. Coulburn, judge advocate of the Infantry School of Fort Benning.

The soldier showed bruises which he said he suffered when the officer kicked him after he tried to explain who was driving the bus involved in the wreck. Showell was in charge of the bus at the time.

ALCOHOL BREATH

There was testimony that Officer Sapp had an odor of alcohol on his breath at the time. A beer parlor operator testified that the officer and he had taken a couple of mugs of beer.

Captain Zimmer, in Showell's defense, asked one of the officers: "Do you make a habit of going around slapping people who curse?" Sat. 7-5-47

"It depends on the circumstances. Cursing in public is disorderly conduct," the officer replied.

"Assault is a violation of the law isn't it," queried the captain, "and you did hit the sergeant?"

"It was assault in a mild way, but it was justified," the patrolman said. Afterwards, the Board chairman reprimanded one officer for use of force and for drinking.

It was the first instance in recent years that Columbus officers, widely known for their brutality to Negro soldiers, have been disciplined for their acts.

Charge Cairo, Ill. Cops Kicked Invalid Mother

Chicago Defender 14

Chicago, Ill. Sat. 5-3-47

Startling revelation of the beating of a sick mother by police in Cairo, Ill., was told here this week by the Chicago branch of the NAACP.

Alfred R. Greer, 3421 Giles ave., disclosed to the NAACP that his sister, Mrs. Bessie F. Johnson, was brutally assaulted April 2 by Paul Bauer, constable in Cairo.

It was charged that Mrs. Johnson was thrown into a jail cell after being kicked about on the floor by Bauer, and then she was refused medical aid for 13 hours.

The beating was the outgrowth of her protest to Bauer's threat to shoot her son, Calvin, 19, Mrs. Johnson declared in a message to her brother. Sat. 5-3-47

When released from custody of police, Mrs. Johnson said she was told to go home and look after her nine children. She said she went to her family physician who told her to forget about the incident.

As a result of the beating, Mrs. Johnson, already afflicted with heart trouble, has been confined to bed since the assault.

48TH STREET POLICE STATION CALLED MOST CORRUPT IN CITY

Black Dispatch Okla. City, Okla.

Law Abiding Citizens Made Victims Of Shakedown, Blackmail

Sat. 8-30-47

ILLEGAL SEARCH AND SEIZURE CITED

14e

CHICAGO — (ANP) — The 48th Street Police station situated in the heart of Chicago's south side, has been cited as the most corrupt of all police stations in the city. It has a wide reputation in the community for "frame-ups," "shakedowns," and "fixing" at the expense of peaceful law-abiding citizens.

Early last week, Ira Latimer, executive director of the Chicago Civil Liberties committee, dispatched a letter to Mayor Martin H. Kennelly, asking that a special investigation be launched into the activities of policemen stationed at the Wabash Avenue station, and also to conditions within the jail itself.

In his letter, Latimer said that while the same condition exists in several other police districts, the Wabash Avenue station, as the largest in the world, is the worst police station in Chicago "from the point of view of protecting the civil rights of citizens."

He pointed out that the station was located in the district and manned in high positions by Negro police officers because of the weight of political influence which Negroes of the sosuth side swung. He also said its purpose was to aid south-siders in proving that Negroes could adhere police districts. Instead, it has dragged the district down, and is looked upon as the worst, most corrupt police station to be found anywhere. 8-30-47 Sat.

Citing numerous incidents where law-abiding citizens have been made victims of "shakedowns," he declared the case of Winston Austin was an example of how low the district police have sunk.

Last May 5, Austin answered the doorbell at his home and found two uniformed police officers standing outside. Asking what they wanted, he was asked did "anyone here call the police?" Replying that no one had, the man turned away as the police went out the door. Just as he was closing the door, one of the rops grabbed him at the back of the neck and began beating him with his fist. Austin called out to a woman resident, who came out to see what was wrong. One of the officers then grabbed Austin by his injured right arm and held him while the other finished hitting him.

The two policemen then searched him, took him to their squad car on the guise that the man had resisted arrest. Austin protested that they had no right to enter his house without a warrant. The officers replied that they had received a call that a man was choking a woman, and that they had beaten Austin because he had slammed the door on the hand of one of the policemen.

With Austin in the car, the policemen returned to the house, had a talk with the woman and her husband, from whom they took $10. They returned to the car, and let Austin go, with the words "you can go back in the house."

Deploring the frequency of such incidents as this, Latimer told the mayor that the problem of enforcing discipline in the police department is entirely in the hands of the police commissioner. Citizens are not allowed to prefer charges against police officers guilty of abuses of their power with the Chicago Civil Service commission. 8-30-47 Sat.

"The rules require that the head of a city department is the only one who can prefer charges," Latimer wrote. "This rule might make sense in regard to employes of the water department or the department where peace officers exercise legal power to arrest and intimidate citizens."

In filing the complaint, Latimer asked that civil service rules be amendmed to allow citizens to prefer charges direct to the civil service commission. 8-30-47 Sat.

"These reports are classical examples of the present outmoded police department system of handling citizens' complaints against misconduct by police officers. The citizen complaints, the officers report and both are filed. It is a rare exception when officers are cited before the commission to answer for their misconduct.

"As a result of this laxity in discipline, a system of abuses has grown up in the busiest police stations (all located in the poorest neighborhoods) which is not only a shame to Chicago, but a threat to democratic institutions."

Suspend Two White Deputies

Chicago Defender

Whiskey-Totin' Cops Molest Auto Party

Chicago Ill

9-20-47

Two deputy sheriffs, recently appointed by Sheriff Elmer M. Walsh, were suspended and relieved of their stars, pistols, ammunition, blackjacks and three fifths of whiskey following a Sheriff's day celebration at Acacia County club early Friday morning.

The suspended deputies are Luke Howe, 37, 1648 E. 70th st., and John Rose, 53, 1424 E. 65th st., both white, who were assigned to the sheriff's day picnic at the club where approximately 1500 persons, who bought tickets at $10 each, made merry. Sat.

According to police reports Howe and Rose had overpicnicked, and on their way home, at 55th and Michigan, they pulled alongside a car driven by Clem Williams, 4351 South Park, and as the light turned green pulled ahead and forced the car driven by Williams to the curb. In it were Mrs. Jean Jones, widow of McKissick Jones, late of Jones brothers' policy fame, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gibson of New York City.

Rose is alleged to have said, "Stop when I say stop."

Mrs. Jones is reported to have told the deputy not to touch Williams, and Rose is said to have announced:

"I'll beat his brains out."

Howe Trains The Dog

Howe, police reports assert, was in a good picnic humor. He is said to have remonstrated goodnaturedly with his fellow deputy and then began to teach Mrs. Jones' Pomeranian pup some new tricks.

Arriving on the scene Park Policemen George Koerber and Richard Dunavin broke up the gathering and took the participants to the 48th and Wabash police station. Acting Lt. John Cannon said Rose refused to submit to questioning and claimed he need take orders "only from Sheriff Walsh."

Lunges At Witness

It is said that Rose lunged at George Gowan, 5317 Michigan ave., a bystander who accompanied the police to the station to give his view of the street fracas.

Cannon accepted two disorderly conduct charges against the deputies from Williams, and Rose insisted on lodging complaints charging the chauffeur of Mrs. Jones with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Sgt. Roy Carpenter of the Homewood County highway police, arrived and offered to put up $50 bond for the two, but Rose said he would make bond and did.

The case will come up for hearing Wednesday in Wabash ave. court.

Chicago Defender 9-20-47

MRS. JEAN JONES

Jones' Window; Chauffeur Freed On Resisting Charge

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

4-29-47

CHICAGO — (N N P A) — Glen Williams, 31, chauffeur for Mrs. Jean Jones, widow of McKissick Jones, who was a south side policy operator, was freed of charges of resisting arrest and disorderly conduct last Wednesday by Municipal Judge Justin F. McCarthy.

The charges were brought by two suspended deputy sheriffs, John Rose and Luke Howe, who had been detailed to Sheriff Elmer Michael Walsh's picnic on September 11 and on their way home stopped the Jones' car. Atlanta Ga.

Rose and Howe obtained continuances until September 23 on the ground that they had not had time to get in touch with Sheriff Walsh, their superior. They were charged with disorderly conduct.

Testimony of three South Park policemen, Williams, Mrs. Jones and a bystander, Mabry Jones, was that the two deputies had been drinking when they used a squad car to force the Jones' car to the curb at Fifty-fifth street and Michigan Avenue.

BRUTAL TREATMENT

Their stories were that Rose pulled Williams out of the car, threatened to "beat his brains out," and brandished a blackjack and revolver. Sat. 9-29-47

Rose denied the charges and said he acted in self defense. He said Williams would not let him turn right and refused to show his chauffeurs' license. Rose admitted h had had two highballs during th day.

Atlanta Daily World

When he attempted to prefe charges against Williams, Rose saic Acting Police Lieutenant John Cannon at the Forty-eight street anc Wabash Avenue station told him h "did not recognize the sheriff's police as a law enforcing agency" anc that he should know better thar fool around with Mrs. Jones.

After he had freed Williams Judge McCarthy said in regard tc the disorderly charges against Rose and Howe:

"No matter how fair minded I tried to be, I might be prejudiced if you allowed the case to stay before me. I might reasonably fine the defendants $5 and $5 costs."

"No," said Rose, "Let the continuance stand."

Beaten By Cop, Asks $50,000

Chicago, Ill.

Defender

Civil Rights Group Backs Vet's Lawsuit

Sat.

A suit for $50,000 damages against Police Commissioner John C. Prendergast and Police Lieut. Edward Barry was filed by Atty. David Landau in Federal Judge Wiliam J. Campbell's court Wednesday, on behalf of Cleotho Macon, who was beaten in a tavern Oct. 2.

Landau was retained by the Chicago Civil Liberties committee.

The suit, which charges violation of Macon's civil rights under the federal constitution, says that Lieut. Barry "willfully, drunkenly, and wantonly" drew his revolver, aimed it at Macon while he was playing a juke box, and then brutally struck him across the jaw with it.

In a statement to Ira Latimer, executive director of the Civil Liberties committee, Macon, a veteran, related the beating incident.

He went into a tavern at 111th street and Vincennes avenue, after leaving work Thursday to get a bottle of beer and some cigarettes, Macon said, and after talking with several persons he knew, went to play the juke box. At that point, someone behind him said, "Stick 'em up!"

10-18-47

Thinking it was a friend, Macon told Latimer he said "wait until I finish." At that point, the man, whom he identified as Lieutenant Barry, swung him around and struck him on the jaw with a pistol, Macon said.

He then said Barry, who he charged was drunk and unsteady on his feet, begged his pardo

CLEOTHO MACON

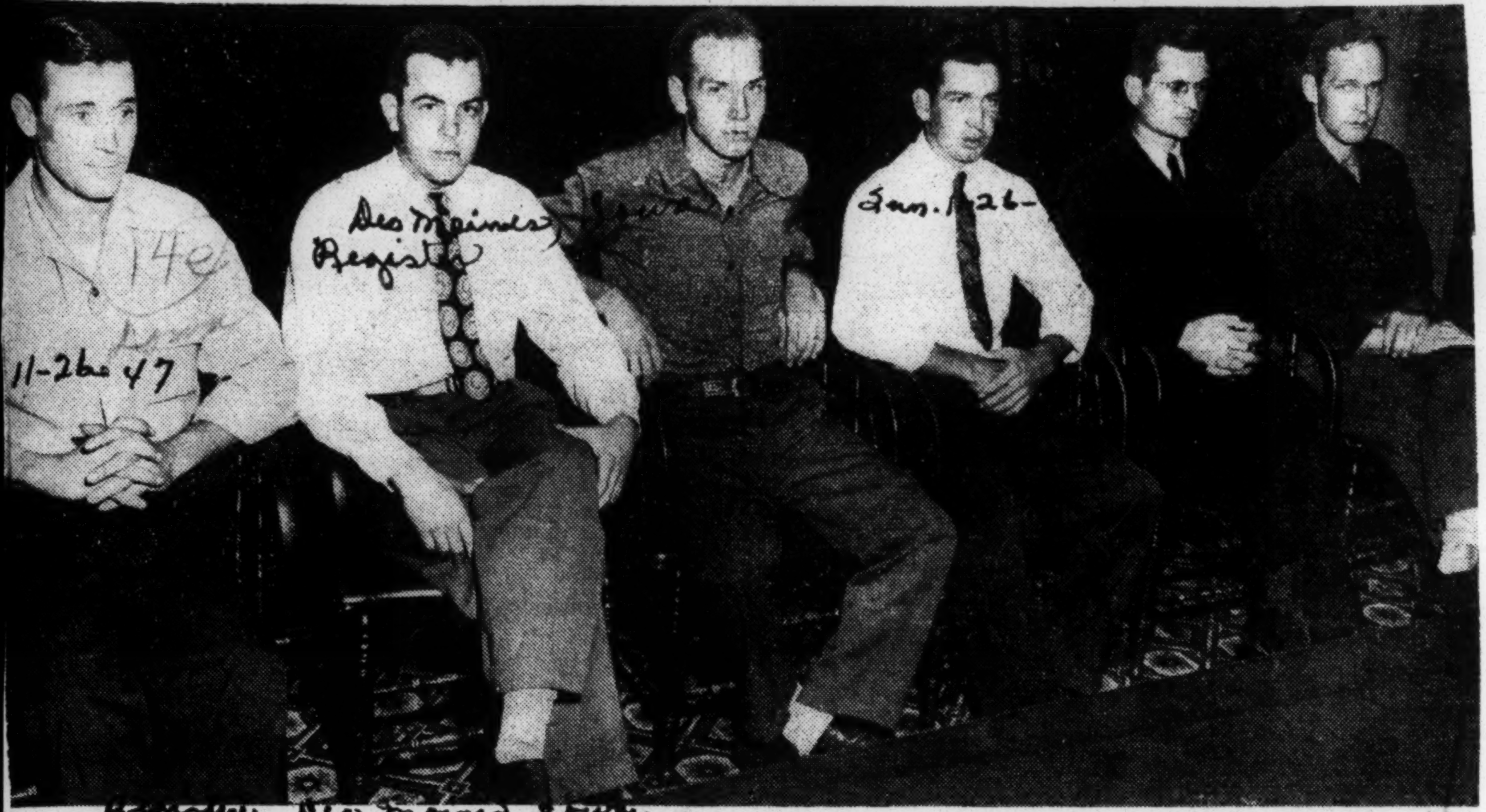
When he asked to be taken to a hospital, Barry agreed, but called other police and had him held in Morgan Park station for half an hour, Macon said. He also said Barry asked his brother-in-law and a friend for money.

A suit has been filed by Charley Johnson, 537 E. 34th pl. against Detective Sylvester Washington, 764 E. Oakwood blvd. and Detective Sergeant Robert Harness, 4535 Evans ave., charging false arrest and asking $5,000 for being brought into public scandal.

Johnson claims that on March 8, at 7 o'clock, these two detectives entered his home and searched it without warrant and removed certain items belonging to him. They took him to Pekin Inn Station, he said, and then to Central station where he was held from March 8, until late Monday, March 10, and was released on a $25 bond. Washington had filed a complaint against Johnson for disorderly conduct. Johnson appeared before Municipal Judge Matthew Hartigan and was found not guilty.

14e 1947 Iowa

Six Men Fined in Pacific Junction Incident



Des Moines, Iowa
Register
Nov. 26-
14e
11-26-47

Register, Des Moines, Iowa.

Six Pacific Junction men were given $25 suspended fines Saturday for unlawful assembly in connection with their protests of the mayor's treatment of a vagrant Negro. They are (left to right), V. O. Hopkinson, Richard Stoney, Otis Turner, Abe Fisher, jr., Russell Coppock and Lawrence Turner.—**Staff Photo by Jack Brinton.**

14e 1947

Kentuc

Detective Indicted for Assault

Courier-Journal

A City detective, Jesse Taylor, Negro, was indicted by a grand jury yesterday on an assault-and-battery charge. 14e(K)

The case had been held to the jury from a magistrate's court, where Taylor was accused by Mrs. Willie Mae Turner, 49, of 526 West, of knocking her down last July in her home.

Taylor had said earlier he entered the home after hearing a child scream, and he charged Mrs. Turner with disorderly conduct when she refused to allow him to investigate. She was given a $5 fine in Police Court.

Louisville, Ky. 11-11-47

The case was submitted to the October grand jury which refused to indict. Safety Director Joseph Murphy said Taylor would be suspended until his case is tried by a jury.

An Encounter With the Police

~~Daily Worker~~

I am a hard-working Negro who owns his own home, have worked as yard and furnace man for the same white families for over 20 years. They tell me that they consider me honest, polite and reliable. My wife has been cooking for the same white lady for many years. Last Sunday night after her work I was driving her home. She was sitting on the back seat of my car. As I reached Sixth and Oak Streets on my way home, I stopped for a bus to let its passengers off. While I was waiting for traffic to move, a police car drove up beside me. The policemen yelled at me to drive over to the curb, which I did. They then asked me who the woman was on the back seat. They would not believe me when I told them she was my wife. They made us both get out of our car, searched me and my car and were most abusive. They threatened to arrest both me and my wife if I gave them any back talk. Finally they let us go, but I still feel that the treatment was unjust, and terrible. As a Negro I do not ask for or wish special privileges, but I do feel that such treatment stirs up bad feeling between my people and the white people. SAMUEL A. JOHNSON.

Courier Journal

Louisville. ~~Atlanta, Ga. 12-7-47~~

This letter is referred to in an editorial today.—(Editor. Louisville Ky. Jour. 12-9-47

A Dangerous Kind Of Police Bullying

Courier Journal

Louisville, Ky. Jour. 12-9-47

SAMUEL A. JOHNSON, who signs a letter in *The Point of View* today, is a colored man of good reputation among many friends, both colored and white. If he is telling the truth—and he is known to be accustomed to doing that—he and his wife have been subjected to an inexcusable outrage by the police. If any legitimate police reason existed for stopping their car and questioning these two Negroes, it should have been explained, of course, and courteously explained.

JOHNSON's report is disturbing. To how many others in the same circumstances has the same thing happened? His may have been an isolated case in which a pair of policemen happened to be in bad humor. But there can be no real assurance of that. Safety Director MURPHY clearly should take note of the incident.

Police imposition upon humble, defenseless and usually voiceless people is unspeakable, to begin with. But the evil is made even worse when the victims are black and the police white. Every such case deepens resentments, builds up tensions, imperils the future peace of race relations. No agency bears a heavier responsibility for the maintenance of good relations between white and colored people than the police. The force should be required to keep this responsibility constantly in mind, never forgetting that cowardly bullying is not only contemptible in itself but also dangerous to the law and order policemen are meant to uphold

14e

La.

Informer
Houston, Texas.
Sat. 11-29-47

ALLEGES BRUTALITY — Mrs. EMILY WILLIAMS (left) 44, of 229 South Robertson street, is shown as she told an almost unbelievable story of mistreatment by local police Saturday to Daniel E. Byrd (right), executive secretary of the New Orleans Branch of the NAACP. (See story)

14e 1947 Louisiana

ASK POLICE SUPT. TO PROBE POLICE BRUTALITY

Louisiana Weekly

Two police brutality cases are reported as being investigated by the Superintendent of Police. The cases are those of Lee Brown, a longshore worker, of 4128 Thalia St., and Clarence James, truck operator, 1911 Perdido St., who both on separate occasions allegedly were mauled around and cursed by First Precinct Station police.

Both cases were brought to the attention of Superintendent of Police A. A. Waters by Daniel E. Byrd, executive secretary of the NAACP, in the form of a letter. However, the Superintendent of Police has been noncommital to both the NAACP executive secretary and The Louisiana Weekly reporters. But from other sources it was learned that Brown and James have been summoned by the police chief to identify their attackers. New Orleans, La.

Brown is the only one of the two who has had the courage to report. James has refused to report, it was learned, because he is afraid of further intimidation.

Brown clashed with police early Christmas morning when he attempted to report that he had been robbed. He claimed to have been virtually ignored by police and when he attempted to get their attention was assaulted with abusive language. He was never able to get any action from police on the robbery. He reported the incident to the NAACP. Sat. 1-18-47

James' case was the most recent to be reported, although his conflict with police happened four days before Brown. While operating his truck, he states that his battery "ran down" and he managed to get a push, but it was the wrong way up S. Roman St. between Perdido and Poydras. He claimed that he turned into Poydras St. and headed towards Bolivar St., where he turned back towards Tulane Ave. Upon reaching Tulane Ave., he states he went to S. Prieur and started down that street. At Palmyra and S. Prieur, he claimed that two policemen on motorcycles stopped him. They ordered him out of the truck. About this time, he reported that a squad car with two or more officers arrived. One of these officers, James said, walked up behind him and struck him with a gun, knocking him up against the wall of a house. When he was able to stand up again, he claimed another policeman hit him in the eye with his fist, then he was ordered into the squad car.

At the First Precinct, James states that he was asked, "Where are you going?" "I informed them that I was going to several friends of mine and we were going hunting," he stated. Another policeman, he reported, yelled, "Shut up, N——r," and struck him in the jaw and another struck him about the same time in the stomach.

In a lengthy signed statement to the NAACP, James further told of police brutality in the Precinct. He claimed he was attacked by several officers, including the desk sergeant. He stated that he was knocked to the floor with a blackjack, whipped on the head with a stick, struck in the side and stomach several times, kicked and whipped by the blackjack after he had been knocked to the floor.

When he was finally put into a cell, he stated that he rapped a tin cup asking for aid and offering to pay his own cab fare to the hospital. He said police came up and sprayed his cell with disinfectant, almost strangling him. After more rapping of a tin cup, James stated, he was finally taken to Charity Hospital in a patrol wagon and wheeled into the hospital from the wagon on a roller. He claimed that hospital physicians discovered he had two broken ribs on his right side and a hip injury on his left. Sat. 1-18-47

He furthered stated to the NAACP that he had in his possession $12.60 when arrested and that the police only gave him a receipt for $6.15.

The NAACP requested action on both the Brown and James cases in two separate letters to the Superintendent of Police. Both letters have never been acknowledged by the Police Department, despite the fact that the NAACP has offered constructive and cooperative aid in assisting the Police Department in obtaining evidence on brutality bent police officers and helping to stem the present crime wave in colored areas.

Victim Has 16 Stitches Put In Battered Mouth

Louisiana Weekly

New Orleans, La.

By Clement MacWilliams

Vicious Nazi-like practices by Louisiana State Highway police in their dealings with Negroes was charged in an exclusive interview with the victim of a cruel beating last Sunday morning.

On a visit to the bedside of Henry Johnson, 47, 1406 Gravier Street, early Tuesday morning, Johnson's bruised and swollen lips told the gruesome story of the unwarranted attack as his wife, Mrs. Corinne Johnson, 32, sat beside him. Sat. 6-28-47

The father of two children, Johnson stated that he has been in the employ of the Isaac Lumber Company for the past three years. Last Saturday, he left New Orleans to deliver a load of lumber to Grand Island. After making the delivery, he started back for New Orleans.

"Since it was Sunday," Johnson said, "I took my time and rode along the highway at about thirty miles an hour. When I reached the Huey P. Long Bridge, I found the traffic to be very heavy.

"Just as I approached the beginning of the incline to go over the bridge, I was stopped by a state policeman. He asked me to pull over to the side of the road, which I did. I was told to walk over to the little office where I was shoved inside.

"When I got inside, I asked the policeman what was the matter. He said, 'You want to know what is the matter? Well, we will show you what is the matter', striking me in the mouth, and knocking me to the floor. He and another policeman picked me up and beat me beside the head. I fell to the floor, striking my head against a table which rendered me unconscious. Sat. 6-28-47

"When I came to, I was lying in a pool of blood and water. They picked me up from the floor, and placed me in one of their cars, and I was taken to the Gretna jail. I was charged with reckless driving and resisting arrest. I could not have been resisting arrest when they did not attempt to search me. I had a pocket knife in my pocket and two dollars in my wallet. When I was released from jail, I made my way home somehow, and had to go to Charity Hospital to have sixteen stitches put in my mouth.

"Monday morning, I had my wife get in touch with my lawyer, and he is going to see to it that I get justice."

Following the interview, an effort was made to contact state police headquarters. An unidentified officer at the Huey P. Long Bridge stated that he had no record of beating Johnson. Sat. 6-28-47

The office of the district attorney at Algiers was contacted but no information was available from his office late Tuesday evening.

BEATEN

Sat. 6-28-47

HENRY JOHNSON

Beating Causes Loss of Child

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

NEW ORLEANS—The sickening story of how law officers of Hammond, La., brutally beat her, causing her to miscarry, was unfolded by Mrs. Jeanette M. Roberts, 23-year-old former resident of Pontchatoula, La., last week, to the New Orleans branch NAACP. Sat. 3-29-47

Now living here, Mrs. Roberts told NAACP Regional Secretary Daniel E. Byrd that on Feb. 27, while she was several months pregnant, five officers beat her over the head with a blackjack and on the legs and body with wire clothes hangers in an effort to force her to confess to the theft of $890. Sat. 3-29-47

So brutal was the beating, she said, that the miscarriage resulted before the officers stopped torturing her. Later she was taken to Charity Hospital in this city for treatment and discharged on March 5.

$890 Reported Lost

According to Mrs. Roberts, she was taken into custody on Feb. 20, after Alvin Alexander of Hammond complained that he had lost the money after a drinking party the day before in which several persons, including Mrs. Roberts and Alexander, had participated.

On the day of her arrest, she added, Police Chief Bales and Patrolman Vic Anderson, accompanying Alexander to her home, ordered her to come with them, refusing to tell her mother the reason for the arrest.

Taken to a back room of the courthouse, she said, she was forced to strip from the waist down and then was beaten for 10 minutes. She was kept in jail from Feb. 20 to Feb. 27, when Alexander requested her release, saying that he believed her innocent. Sat. 3-29-47

Instead of releasing her, Mrs. Roberts added, Bales, Anderson and three other policemen took her to her cousin's home, forced her to strip again, handcuffed her to a bed and then beat her with the blackjack and clothes hangers.

After about 30 minutes of torture, she continued, the miscarriage occurred. But instead of taking her to the hospital then, she said, they took her to Anderson's pressing shop and forced her to clean up and then returned her to the jail.

When her uncle learned that she was still suffering in jail, he had the mayor of Pontchatoula to intervene, and later, on the orders of a Dr. Lipscomb, she was taken to the hospital.

Vet In U.S. Uniform Shot By Dixie Cop

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois - Sat. 8-16-47

CROWLEY, La.—A young Negro veteran, arrested by police because he wore a sergeant's stripes was cornered, shot and captured Sunday by officers and an armed mob of 1,000 citizens.

The veteran, identified as Leroy Cloud, 22, engaged the police and mob in a gun duel among the pillars of a warehouse before being captured. Sat. 8-16-47

Chief of Police Max Broussard said the altercation started when Patrolman Leo Morgan arrested the veteran because his discharge papers showed he had been a private first class, while he was found wearing the sergeant's stripes. The police chief said Cloud shot Morgan in the spine while enroute to a police station.

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Cop Beats Vet Student Who 'Ran' to R. R. Station Cafe

Afro American

1-18-47 Sat.

NEW ORLEANS, La.—A brutal attack on Ernest C. Thibodeaux, disabled war veteran and Xavier University student, by a police officer at the railroad station of the Texas and Pacific Railroad in Alexandria (La.) last Dec. 20 was disclosed Jan. 6 by the local NAACP.

Mr. Thibodeaux's affidavit on Dec. 26, signed in Dass County (Tex.), and sent here from the Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches said:

That while en route to Dallas, Dec. 20, from here, he and S1/c Odis Loyd of Pensacola (Fla.) left the train to get some food when it made a 10-minute stop in Alexandria.

A Fatal Run

They asked a uniformed officer where food may be obtained and he directed them to the colored waiting room. When they started running to save time, the officer shouted, "Don't run over anyone."

While walking back to the train they were stopped by E. C. McLaughlin, special officer for the railroad. The uniformed officer pointed to the student whom, he told McLaughlin, said he will "run over anyone who got in his way." 1-18-47 Sat.

Officer Strikes Student

While McLaughlin was questioning the men about their destination and their tickets, the officer fractured the student's left jaw with his nightstick. The men were returned to the train where the student produced his ticket from his brief case.

When the officer observed that the student was taking down his badge number, he warned him against it and threatened to kill him. The railroad officer denied seeing the assault, witnessed by six other students. The NAACP is investigating the case.

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Indict Two For Beating Medic Who Protested Maid's Arrest

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By JOHN LeFLORE

NEW ORLEANS, La.—A federal grand jury here Thursday indicted two law enforcement officers of Gonzalez, in Ascension parish, accused of violating civil liberties provisions of the Constitution in the arrest and beating of a white physician and the arrest of his maid. Sat. 3-15-47

Taken into custody under charges of the indictment were Town Marshal Leslie Paul Bourque and Deputy Marshal Hector Young. Their bond was set at $5,000 each.

The officers are declared to have beaten Dr. Forrest Earl Baker, (white), also of Gonzalez, with their fists and a blackjack after having falsely arrested him on last June 6, when he protested the false arrest and fining of his maid, Mrs. Hilda Bringier, age 19, according to the indictment.

They are also charged with having falsely arrested Mrs. Bringier and denying her civil rights guaranteed under federal law.

Dr. Baker said he was attacked when he and his wife went to Marshal Bourque's office to make inquiry about a fine assessed against the maid which they considered was without justification.

He explained that Mrs. Bringler had been arrested in a roundup of all colored people who had been to a dance hall in Gonzalez, at which a free-for-all fight had occurred during the late night but his maid was not there at the time. Sat. 3-15-47

The indictment also declares that the maid was unlawfully deprived of her liberty when they (the Gonzalez officers) had no cause to take her into custody since no criminal charges had been made or were pending.

142

"Told Not To Say Anything Of Being Beaten And Jailed"

Informer
Houston Texas

Sat. 11-29-47

NEW ORLEANS— Despite the assurances of Police Superintendent A. A. Watters on various occasions that members of the local police force do not employ brutal tactics on Negroes suspected of committing crimes complaint after complaint flows into the office of the New Orleans branch NAACP the most recent having been made Sat. by Mrs Emily Williams, 44 of 229 South Robertson street who declared she had been beaten by two detectives with blackjacks.

Mrs. Williams said that on Tuesday, November 18, two detectives went to her home about 9 a.m. and asked her name. On being told. they said, "You are the girl we are looking for," she related.

"They came in. searched every nch of my house icluding hat boxes. under garments. and kitchen safe. saying that Mrs Singer, a white woman for whom I had worked. told them that the Monday after I stopped working for her a stick pin had disappeared."

Mrs Williams told the Informer Sentinel that in September 1947 she had been employed by a Mrs. E. Singer whose husband operated a hardware store at 4600 Freret street. Sat.

"My duties were washing, ironing. general cleaning and dishwashing. I was paid a salary of $15 a week." she declared "After working for Mrs. Singer a week I accidentally cut my arm on her electric fan. After taking several days off, I returned to work the following week and she was dissatisfied with my work so she paid me and I left." 11-29-47

"Two months had passed since i left Mrs. Singer's employ when he detectives came to my home Tuesday ,accusing me of stealing a stick pin," Mrs. Williams said.

'I denied having seen any stick pin or any other jewelry at the Singer home while I was employed there and told the detectives I hadn't worked there in two months, yet they insisted I had the pin and said they were going to take me to jail.

'They took me to Mrs. Singer's home and she told them that she had a small key which hung on her dresser and that I had evidently taken the key, opened the drawer and removed the stickpin. I informed both the detectives and Mrs. Singer that I had never seen any such key when I waxed the dresser as I was required to do when I worked for her.

'Then they started to take me to the Parish prison. While I was in an automobile with them going back Napoleon avenue, one of the detectives took out his blackjack and slammed me across the stomach saying. 'you are going to admit that you stole that pin or tonight we are going to break every bone in your body and put your body in the morgue and let people do anything they want.'

"He then took the blackjack and struck me across the knee then they brought me back to the parish prison and placed me in a cell about 10:30 a.m.

"Between 4 and 4:30 p.m. they came to get me and I asked them where they were taking me. One of them said, 'We are taking you on the edge of town and shoot you like we would shoot a bird Are you going to confess that you stole the pin?' I said, 'Not now or even in death".

Mrs Williams continued: "They put me in the car and headed uptown While going out Napoleon avenue they told meBidz . csyf-d don't want to prosecute you. We are going to take you there and leave you with Mrs. Singer and you tell her you will be in to see her one day next week and in the meantime the pin will show up on the floor and you say,, "Oh there is your pin!"

"I told him I would not agree to any such thing because I knew nothing of the pin. They took me to Mrs. Singer left me in the kitchen while they talked with Mrs. Singer in the bedroom. They came back to the kitchen and said, 'We are going into the store and you talk with Mrs Singer.' I told them I had absolutely nothing to say to Mrs Singer. Mrs. Singer then said, 'Don't be crazy, girl.'

"Mr. Singer then came out of the store and called me and said 'Come in here girl,' and we went into the breakfast room and he whispered to me, 'Now girl, be frank Somebody told me that you said you had found a pin around here.'

"I asked him who told him that. He said someone he knew well I told him I would like to know who said that because I had made no such remark to anyone. Then he said. 'We don't want to prosecute you.' I told him he couldn't prosecute me because I had not stolen anything.

"He then walked away to the store and I walked behind him. The detectives shook hands with Mr. Singer saying, 'We are going to bring her home and she will be in within the next few days and bring the stickpin. I told the detectives, Mr. Singer, in the presence of two other white persons in the store that I would not be back because I knew nothing of any stickpin and had no reason to come back.

"The detectives put me in the car to take me home saying, 'We are taking you back where we got you from. Don't tell any of your neighbors or your brothers that we put you in jail. Tell them you knew something about some holdups and we merely took you to get some information.'

"I informed them I would tell my brothers and everyone else who asked me because I had never been arrested in my life. my record was clean and they had taken advantage of me and had beaten me.

"On Wednesday, November 19 I went to Charity hospital and they diagnosed my condition as having a contusion of the abdominal wall." Mrs. Williams concluded.

The statement made in the presence of an Informer-Sentinel reporter will be forwarded to Superintendent of Police A. A. Watters, the NAACP executed secretary Daniel E. Byrd declared.

14e 1947

ichigan

MOTORIST HIT

Michigan Chronicle

WHEN HE DENIES

Detroit, Michigan

WRONG DOING

Sat. 3-22-47

Ask Ballenger, Lawrence To Investigate Beating

14e

Police Commissioner John Ballenger, and deputy superintendent of police, Kennedy Lawrence, have been asked by the NAACP to investigate the beating of Garthelia Lindsey, 25, 282 Smith, by Bethune station police on March 15.

According to Lindsey, he was stopped at Woodward and Bethune on March 15, at approximately 11:45 o'clock by squad car police, who charged him with running through a red light at Woodward and Grand blvd.

Denies Charge

Lindsey says that he explained to the policemen that he had not been to the above mentioned intersection but had been over to Oakland ave. to carry a friend, George Ivory.

Continuing his story, he said that he drove over to Woodward to buy a newspaper.

While Lindsey was telling his story, he noticed one of the policemen checking a chart. "You won't find my name on that chart because I haven't done anything," Lindsey said.

Threatened

The officer is alleged to have taken offense at the remark and threatened Lindsey. Lindsey attempted to take down the badge number of the police. Asked why he was doing so, he said, "You have threatened me and I am getting your number."

The officer then stepped out of the car and slapped him and then hit him. He was taken to Bethune Station and charged with reckless driving. Sat. 3-22-47

On Sunday he was taken to Receiving Hospital and treated for cuts in the mouth and a fractured skull.

The case was adjourned Monday until April 15.

BEATEN BY OFFICER

Michigan Chronicle Sat. 6-14-47 Detroit, Michigan

Mrs. Mary Patterson of 228 Josephine, who was carried to Receiving Hospital Monday for complications following a miscarriage which she suffered after being beaten and kicked by an officer of the Juvenile Court last May 3. The officer denied that he kicked her. She is holding her daughter Alice.

LOSES CHILD,

Michigan Chronicle

ILL FOR MONTH

Detroit, Michigan

AFTER BEATING

Suit Planned By Woman; Taken To Receiving This Week

Sat. 6-14-47

By CHARLES J. WARTMAN

The unusual brutality of an officer of the Juvenile Court in beating and kicking Mrs. Mary Patterson of 228 Josephine, last May 3, has caused her to lose her child which she was carrying at the time. She was carried to Receiving hospital Monday afternoon after a city physician came to see her.

Mrs. Patterson, the wife of Tom Patterson, a worker at the Briggs Manufacturing company and an honorably discharged World War II veteran, was in the Juvenile Court on the day of the assault in the interest of her brother, Earl Gordy, 15, of the same address, who was on trial for violating probation.

Father a Witness

"After the trial was over, my brother was being led down the corridor by a Harlan Ringelberg, a probation officer. I went with my father, Joseph Gordy, to speak to him before they took him away," Mrs. Patterson said.

"As I approached the officer, he turned and struck me in the face with his fist. He then struck me again, knocking me to the floor. Then he kicked me in the stomach." She said.

According to Mrs. Patterson, she then went into the Court Room of Judge Baxter, when she was able to get up. The Judge had her taken to a doctor immediately.

4 Months Pregnant

Sat. 6-14-47

She said that she went to Dr. Milton Palmer, 8550 Oakland, who diagnosed her as being four and one-half months pregnant and advised her to go home immediately.

Mrs. Patterson said that she then got in touch with Atty. Sam Weller, who advised her to go back and get a letter from Dr. Palmer and then he would ask for a warrant for the arrest of the Juvenile Court officer.

Ill For Weeks

"Before I could get the warrant I got sick and have been ill ever since," Mrs. Patterson said. "I lost my child."

"We are going to go through with the action. I intend to get justice," she declared.

According to Dr. Palmer, Mrs. Patterson was pregnant at the time she was struck but he could not say that the blows caused her to have a miscarriage. "She had the miscarriage so soon after that I would assume that the blows must have had something to do with it," Palmer said.

Dr. Palmer said that he was called into court about two weeks ago to testify in behalf of Mrs. Patterson. At that time she received a suspended sentence on charges of assault and battery on Ringelberg. Michigan Chronicle

When questioned by a Chronicle reporter, Ringelberd said: "I don't want to make a statement on this affairs." Sat. 6-14-47

However, he said that Mrs. Patterson was found guilty of assault and battery on him on May 2. The case was heard by Recorder's Judge Christopher E. Stein.

Ringelberd said he accused Mrs. Patterson of assaulting him after she had hit him first. He said he heard the noise of the fracas.

Asked why Mrs. Patterson had hit him, Ringelberd said:

"It is a long story." Sat. 6-14-47

14e 1947

Missouri

Case Reset

St. Louis Argus

After Rebuke

St. Louis, Mo.

By Judge

Fri. 6-20-47

Defense Witnesses Absent

The citizens of Kinloch turned out enmasse Wednesday night to the Jennings Court house where the trial of Officer Charles Cates of the Berkley City police department is being held. Officer Cates is charged with common assault in the brutal beating of Ray Otis Gregory, a Kinloch boy, who was reportedly handcuffed at the time of the beating. He looked a little nervous as he walked into the packed court room. The court was jammed to its fullest capacity with the citizens who were looking for justice to be done. All who had an automobile or a truck had put them in use to transport others to the court. Fri. 6-10-47

As the court room was brought to order and the Judge asked Lawyer Mooney if the prosecution was ready, Atty. Mooney replied "prosecution ready, your honor." The judge then asked was the defense ready and officer Cates' lawyer replied, "not ready your honor." It then took about three minutes to get order in the court as the crowded court room started buzzing. Officer Cates' lawyer went on to say that all of his witnesses were not there and that he would like to have a two weeks' extension. The Judge then asked why the witnesses were not in court, to which the lawyer replied that they were working. "That is no excuse," replie the judge, "these people have to work and they are here." The judge then said, "You knew this trial was coming up it was up to you to get them here. I'll give you one week and that is all, have your witnesses in court at 9:00 a.m. June 25."

Ill feeling of the Berkley city officials of Kinloch is attributed to law suits that Kinloch residents won from Berkley. The suits were instituted by the people of Berkley who sought to separate the school districts. They lost in court. Berkley residents then incorporated into a city and set up their own school system. At this point the citizens of Berkley felt that they should get the money that they had put into the old school system back, and again the courts overruled them. Since then tense feeling is reported to have existed between the neighboring communities. On several occasions before, the police of Berkley, are said to have molested the citizens of Kinloch, but this is the first that has resulted in a trial. Fri. 6-20-47

The Berkley city officials reset the date for the case of Ray Otis Gregory to June 27. In attending the trial of Gregory a writer of this paper was treated very nasty, and told that there was no news in the case for him. When asked what Gregory was being tried for the reporter was told that it was none of his business. So the case of the people of Kinloch vs. the police of Berkley goes on in Hollywood fashion.

Youth Felled While Locked

St. Louis Argus

In Handcuffs

St. Louis, Mo.

Kinloch Has A Protest Rally

Fri. 6-13-47

Aroused citizens of South Kinloch Park, called for a halt of strong-armed police tactics by members of the neighboring Berkley Township force at a mass meeting Wednesday night in the Dunbar School. Funds were collected at the meeting to bring legal action against police who were reported to have made an unwarranted brutal assault on a Kinloch youth.

Magistrate Joseph Garrett of Jennings issued a warrant charging patrolman Charles Gates of the Berkley ciy police department with common assault. The warrant was issued on the information received from County Prosecuting Attorneys office in an affidavit from Ray Otis Gregory, 19, of Winton street, South Kinloch Park, charging that he was beaten by Gates while handcuffed early Sunday morning.

Gregory told reporters that he was hit in the mouth with a blackjack as he was being led from a squad car into the Berkley police station after being arrested or what Cates caalled a traffic violation.

Records at the St. Louis County hospital show that Gregory was treated for a lacerated lip, two stitches being necessary, and bruises of the face. Fri. 6-13-47

Patrolman Cates told reporters that he hit Gregory only after he and several companions came out of a car which he (Cates) had stopped, and the boys came out swinging. Cates denied Gregory was handcuffed when hit. He also said that he hit David Cross, of Lix street when he resisted arrest.

A. J. Williams, police officer in Kinloch, who arrested Cross and turned him over to Cates, said that at no time did Cross resist arrest.

David Cross told reporters that Cates arrested him as one of the boys in the car and when they got to the station Cates attempted to hit him but he threw up his hands which were handcuffed and was hit on the arm. Cates told him that he was going to arrest the boys one by one and beat them, and if he ever caught one walking the streets with his hand in his pocket that he (Cates) was going to kill him. Cross said that after this Cates pulled his pistol and put it to his forehead and said I should kill you now.

Records show that Gregory was arrested sometime ago for a crime that information indicates he did not commit. He was fined $50.00, although his employer said he was at work at the time the incident occurred. Fri. 6-13-47

At the meeting, the citizens raised money for the hearing, June 18.

14e 1947

New Jersey

Ask Halt To Brutal Attacks In New Jersey

The St. Louis Argus
St. Louis, Mo.

14e

Fri-8-15-47

NEW YORK CITY (WDL)—Turner Smith, head of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Section, has been urged to "restore civil rights in Fort Lee and Cliffside. New Jersey, where for two successive Sundays police and Palisades Park guards have maintained a Mississippi-style reign of terror."

The request for federal intervention came from Rowland Watts, acting National Secretary of the Workers Defense League when the New Jersey attorney general failed to act.

"On August 3 eleven members of an interracial group were beaten up and then arrested for merely exercising their civil rights," Watts wrote Smith. "Seven were arrested at the pool's entrance after being refused admittance .The other four were arrested outside the park while picketing and distributing leaflets protesting the pool's ban on Negroes. Members of the group not arrested were also manhandled.

"Among the seven seized at the pool's entrance was our news editor, James Peck, who was bloodied up by a park guard while two policemen were hauling him into a police car. Inside the police car, right in front of Peck, a policeman blackjacked Morris Horowitz, who was also arrested."

Fri-8-15-47

Watts recalled how, the previous Sunday, six members of the group were manhandled and forcibly deported to New York and how Samuel Scott. a Negro, was blackjacked. He also pointed out that on both occasions Irving Rosenthal, the pool's owner and Fred Stengel, Fort Lee police chief, supervised operations.

14e 1947

New York

Charge East Side Police Rough Up Negro Residents

Daily Worker New york, N.y.

Sat. 7-5-47

Policemen of the Seventh Precinct on the Lower East Side were accused yesterday of "disgraceful brutality" against Negro residents of the area. The charges were made by the United Negro and Allied Veterans in a letter to Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander. The vet group made public three signed affidavits describing "unwarranted violence" against Negro residents of Monroe St. The letter to Wallander was sent by Oliver Martin, UNAVA state commander, who has asked the Commissioner for an early meeting on the matter.

The most recent victim was Odell Oakes, 103 Monroe St., who was manhandled by two cops Saturday, June 28.

A veteran of five years' European and Pacific service, Oakes' affidavit is one of the three. The others were made by Boston Bruinson, 99 Monroe St., a Negro, and Selma Teich, a white women. All tally as to Saturday's incident.

Sat. 7-5-47

RETRIEVE BALL

That evening at about 7 o'clock several Negro children were playing ball in Monroe St., near Rutgers Three times their ball fell on the roof of a paint store at 16 Monroe St. Each time one of the boys climbed a fire escape to get it.

After a third time when the boy as just getting off the fire escape a Seventh Precinct car drove up license numer (3N-1047). A man standing just outside the store, whom Miss Teich believed to be the proprietor, shouted to the cop "That's the one" and pointed at the boy. Sat. 7-5-47

One cop ran after the boy and, failing to catch him, threw his nightstick, but missed. The other cop then leaped from the car and began shoving the Negro bystanders. There were also several white men, but they were not molested.

BYSTANDER ATTACKED

The first cop then rushed at Oakes, pushed him and shouted, "Move on." Dakes walked a few paces, where he met his wife, who is pregnant. The cop, seeing him stop to talk to her, rushed up, grabbed him by the collar and shook him violently. Oakes walked quietly away. Sat. 7-5-47

The other cop then set upon Bruinson, grabbed him, searched his pockets and pushed him around. Bruinson declared the cop said: **"I'll put a bullet through you."**

"I got the impression the officers were deliberately trying to provoke trouble," Miss Teich declared. She asserted that she had seen the same thing happen on several occasions previously.

Negro Shot by Rookie Cop; Was It Justified?

PM New york, N.y.

Fri. 8-8-47

Lloyd Curtis Jones, a big and easygoing singing student who was shot at Columbus Circle Wednesday night by a rookie patrolman, remained in critical condition last night at Roosevelt Hospital.

Patrolman Francis Le Maire, who shot Jones just 25 minutes after going on duty on his first day as a regular cop, was back in harness.

Police and civilian versions of the shooting differed. Lieut. Patrick Skea of the W. 54th St. station, reading from the blotter, said Le Maire had Jones in custody; that Jones hit him severely several times with his fists on the chest and shoulders; that Le Maire finally pulled his gun.

'We Only List The Fact . . .'

Asked why Le Maire wanted to arrest Jones, Lieut. Skea replied: "We only list the fact; the question you're asking me will come out in court."

Capt. Nicholas J. Gaffney, of the W. 54th St. station, said after an investigation that Le Maire fired when Jones tried to grab his gun. Gaffney also said that Jones balked when Le Maire tried to break up a crowd at Central Park entrance.

The few undisputed facts are:

Jones is 29, married, unemployed, weighs 220 pounds and stands 6 feet 2 inches.

LeMaire is 25, a Navy veteran, stands 5 feet 8 and weighs 140 pounds — a comparative midget alongside Jones. He has just completed probationary duty.

Jones and two other men were sitting on a bench at the Columbus Circle entrance to Central Park. One of them was singing.

Reporters quoted police and eyewitnesses as saying that Jones grabbed LeMaire's nightstick and held it for a few minutes until LeMaire shot him. These witnesses said LeMaire, because of the difference in size, didn't know exactly how to cope with Jones. They think LeMaire was justified in shooting.

Jones' landlady at 121 W. 114th St., Mrs. Mary Blanding, said Jones came here from Florida about six months ago; she never saw him take a drink, he never brought in anyone else of either sex, he was a very quiet man "working all the time," and he was studying voice.

'Come On, You Guys, Shove Off'

The only eyewitness PM could find is Walter Panczyk, 23, once of Battle Creek, Mich., and now of 158 W. 65th St., who served in the Navy for four years and nine months and saw action in both Pacific and Atlantic. He said he was on his way home with the morning papers and sat down on a bench. He went on: Fri. 8-8-47

"I was only sitting for a couple of minutes when two cops came up to a group of three Negroes. The cop who didn't do the shooting (*Patrolman John Igoe*) said: 'Come on, you guys, shove off.' They moved up about 10 feet until they were in front of the first bench on Central Park West and they started to shoot the breeze again.

"Then the other cop (*LeMaire*) came up and said: 'When a cop tells you to shove off—Shove Off!'

"The big Negro turned to the cop and said: 'Why should I move? I'm not doing anything. Why don't you chase the rest of the people?"

'He Jabbed Him With His Night Stick'

"The cop then grabbed the Negro and hollered, 'Where do you live?' He jabbed him in the belly with his nightstick and asked for the Negro's identification cards. The big fellow handed the cop some cards and after looking them over the cop poked them into the big fellow's stomach a couple of times and said: 'After this, when a cop tells you to move on—Move!'

"The cop kept talking for a few minutes and then the Negro said: 'What's the matter with you two? If you're looking for trouble you'll get it.' The cop kept on pushing the identification into his stomach.

"The Negro towered over the cop, and he gave him a push.

"The cop wrapped the night stick around his hand and belted the big guy over the head. The stick busted in half and one piece of it bounced against a tree about ten feet away.

"The big guy wasn't fazed much. He sagged a little and then he straightened out and he had his fists doubled up as if he was going to launch himself.

"The Negro didn't make any move or didn't say anything, but the cop backed up a couple of steps, whipped out his gun, and let go. The bullet went right through the big guy, hit the park wall, and ricocheted off.

"The Negro didn't move or say anything. He sagged a little and the cop told him to sit down on the bench behind him. The big guy backed over to the bench, holding his belly with both hands.

"There was a bum asleep on the next bench.

'With the Gun In His Hand'

"The other cop (*Igoe*) started to go over to the big guy, but this cop with the gun in his hand said: 'It's all right, I've got him covered.' Then the other cop ran to the drug store. Fri. 8-8-47

"There was a big crowd gathering around and the cop stood in front of the big fellow with the gun in his hand, and it was shaking all over the place.

"The whole time this was going on the big Negro just sat with his hands over his wound and the blood was dripping on the ground. After about 10 minutes he raised his head and moaned, 'Oh God, it hurts.' It took the ambulance about 20 minutes to get there.

"After the ambulance pulled away the cops began to tell the crowd to break it up and one of them went over and woke up the bum, who had slept through the whole thing. He didn't arrest him, just told him to move along."

Cop Is Back on Duty After Shooting Negro; Police Probe Goes On

PM New york, N.y.

Sun. 8-10-47

Whether Lloyd Curtis Jones was shot by a patrolman doing his duty or was the victim of a trigger-happy rookie cop is a question that remains unanswered.

Police Commissioner Wallander told PM late Friday afternoon that Inspector Martin Johnson was still investigating the circumstances of the shooting last Wednesday midnight at Columbus Circle.

The Commissioner's statement followed a story of an eye-witness account of the shooting in Friday's PM in which the witness made it plain that he thought the cop was not justified in shooting Jones.

Jones, 29, a Negro singing student, is still in critical condition at Roosevelt Hospital. He is under arrest, on felonious assault.

The rookie, Patrolman Francis LeMaire, 25, is back on duty. He began his first regular day on the force 25 minutes before he shot Jones.

According to the police version, as told by Lieut. Patrick Skea of the W. 54th St. Station, who read LeMaire's report from the blotter, Jones was in LeMaire's custody when he hit the cop several times with his fists on the chest and shoulders. LeMaire finally pulled his gun, shooting Jones in the stomach. Skea said the reason LeMaire had Jones in custody was something that would come out in court.

Capt. Nicholas J. Gaffney, also of the W. 54th St. Station, who made the original investigation, said that LeMaire fired when Jones tried to grab his gun. He said it all started when Jones refused to "cooperate" when LeMaire tried to break up a crowd at the entrance to Central Park. 8-10-47

Witness Tells A Different Story

Neither report tallies with the

eye-witness version of Walter Panczyk, 23, a Navy veteran with four years and nine months of service, who lives at 158 W. 65th St.

According to Panczyk, LeMaire and another patrolman, John Igoe, approached a group of three Negroes. He said that Igoe told them to "shove off" and that they moved up to in front of the first bench on Central Park West. At that point, he said, LeMaire came up and said:

"When a cop tells you to shove off—shove off!"

Says Cop Jabbed With Nightstick

Panczyk said that when Jones, who is 6 feet 2 inches, asked why they were being chased, LeMaire, who stands 5 feet 8, started to jab him in the belly with his nightstick.

According to Panczyk, an exchange of words followed, after which LeMaire broke his nightstick over Jones' head. He said the Negro sagged a little but straightened out and doubled his fists.

"The Negro didn't make any move and didn't say anything," Panczyk said. "But the cop backed up a couple of steps, whipped out his gun, and let go."

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Charge 4 Cops After Rights' Trial In N.Y.

Defender
Chicago Ill

NEW YORK—Complaints charging assault against four police officers were issued today by Magistrate Morris Rothenberg, as a result of a hearing yesterday in his court on assault charges preferred by them against Samuel Symonette, candy store owner of 101 W. 143rd st.

Rothenberg yesterday reduced the charge against Symonette from felonious to simple assault, reduced his bail from $1,000 to $500, and ordered him held for Felony Court. His defense, which resulted in the issuance of complaints against his accusers, was handled by Joseph Tauber, retained as counsel for him by the Civil Rights Congress of New York. Sat. 11-22-47

The four officers, whose cases will be heard Nov. 24 in Magistrate's Court at 151st st. and Amsterdam ave., are Alexander Kahn, Emanuel Burson, James McCarthy and T. Carlyle. All are plainclothesmen attached to the 10th Division.

Symonette was arrested on Oct. 13. At that time he charged that the four officers entered his shop, locked the door behind them, and proceeded to beat him unmercifully with pop bottles, blackjacks and guns, kicked him, and pummelled him. Passers-by finally called the riot squad to stop the beating. His trial was twice postponed because he was physically unable to appear in court, because of the beating he had received.

Jones' Own Story of How Rookie Cop Shot Him

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P.M. New York, N.Y.
Wed. 8

(A week ago today Lloyd Curtis Jones was shot by a rookie patrolman at Columbus Circle. The rookie cop, Francis LeMaire, is still on duty. Jones, a 29-year old Negro singing student, is at Roosevelt Hospital. His condition is satisfactory but he is still under arrest on charges of felonious assault. In the past week PM has produced two eye-witnesses who have disputed the police version of the shooting by the rookie policeman. Police Commissioner Wallander has no comment to make except to say that Inspector Martin Johnson, head of the 5th Division, is still investigating the circumstances under which Jones was shot. Following is Jones' own story.) Wed. 8-13-47

By Lloyd Curtis Jones
(As told to Gene DePoris)

"I'm a war veteran, honorably discharged from the Army at Jefferson Barracks because of a bad heart. I get a pension of $41.40 a month. I use that money and whatever else I can earn to pay for my singing lessons. I am hoping to win a Guggenheim scholarship this Fall. But whether I am a veteran or not has nothing to do with why I'm here in this hospital. What's important to me is that I'm an American. I was taught that very strongly in the Army.

LeMaire

"As an American I never thought the day would come when I would be shot by a cop for no reason at all. I never got into trouble in the Army. I was never in trouble in civilian life. I have a good reputation, but here I am, sicker than a dying dog, in this hospiatl. I had to be the one.

"Last Wednesday night was like most other nights to me. I went down to Columbus Circle from my rooming house on W. 114th St. to shoot the breeze. There are lots of discussions going on at the Circle and everyone is very friendly even though nobody knows each other by name. You can learn quite a bit around there.

Kids' Cat Band Entertains Folks

"On Wednesday night a kid's cat band, using wash boards and things, was entertaining the folks on the benches. After they left, at about 11:15 P.M., I decided to go home myself. So me and Nick, a little colored fellow who also lives in Harlem, start to shift over toward the bus stand and the first thing you know we stop instead at the big stone bench and start to gab with some people. Soon one of them who recognized me asked me to sing. They all joined in, including a drunk who started to argue that he had the best Irish tenor in town. After awhile he left and I said, 'let's go home.'

"We started for the first bus stop again and reached near the three shots I heard. Pow! Pow! Pow! I staggered; I don't remember which way. I heard a lot of voices gasp in horror and I heard some ladies say: 'It's that nice man with the beautiful voice. Why did they pick on him?'

"I kept staggering around, clasping my belly with my hands and found myself a seat on a bench. I kept moaning: 'Oh, Lord, the man has shot me for nothing.'

"The longer I sat there the worse the pain got and it seemed like an hour before the ambulance came. Wed. 8-13-47

(An eye-witness, who timed it, told PM it took exactly 23 *minutes for an ambulance to arrive from Roosevelt Hospital, three blocks away.)*

'I Was Losing Blood Fast . . .'

"Everybody stayed around looking and other cops tried to chase them away. Things were beginning to get dark for me. I was losing blood fast and I moaned: 'Oooh, ooh, ooh.

"Through it all I swear I heard a cop ask the one who shot me why he did it. I heard the rookie cop say: 'If I hadn't shot him he was going to do something to me.'

" 'Well,' the first voice said, 'You better think up something to make it stick.'

"But it's all over now. The first thing I want to do is get well. Then I got to worry about what will happen to me because I understand I'm under arrest for getting shot. They call it felonious assault. Me, with nothing on me. Nothing in pocket—not even a handkerchief.

"But listen, mister. Will you do me a favor? Will you go over to the Circle some night and ask anyone if they remember a big, tall colored fellow who used to come around and had a good voice?

"And will you please ask them if he ever bothered anybody?"

"There were two cops together and one of them walked up behind me and said: 'Which way are you going?' I said I'm going up to get a bus and go home. Nick and I continued to walk about 10 paces more when one of the fellows who was on the bench with us before came up and asked me why I didn't try for some scholarship with my voice.

"Up comes this cop again. 'Hey, you! I thought I told you to get off the street.' Everybody was standing in the street but he comes up close and says: 'Let's see your identification.' I showed him my draft registration card and another card from my draft board.

'Takes Night Stick . . . Starts to Poke Me'

"He said the cards were not right. I took them back and was looking at them when he takes his night stick and starts to poke me. 'Get back there, you black son of a bitch,' he said. 'I'm going to take you in.' With that he pushed me with his nightstick. As I backed up he started to hit me and hit me.

"My face was covered with blood and I had no pocket handkerchief to keep it from gushing. I couldn't see but I kept instinctively backing up. Wed. 8-13-47

"Finally I rubbed my arm over my eyes and when I could see I grabbed for his stick. I tried to keep him from hitting me. I think he fell at that time but I don't remember for sure. There's a lot I'm trying to remember and a lot I can't forget about that night.

"One thing I can't forget—those Eighth Ave. subway entrance and I'm telling you the street was filled with all kinds of little groups of people. Girls and sailors talking. Men, fags—everything. The cops had just broken up the big crowd at 11 p.m. and the little groups were forming just before the last good nights.

Policeman Begins Duty by Shooting Student

Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—A singing student, who protested biased police action is in a critical condition in Roosevelt Hospital, while the rookie policeman, who shot him just 25 minutes after going on duty as a regular is back on his beat, pending an investigation.

The student is 29-year-old Lloyd C. Jones, who was singing with two friends on a bench at Columbus Circle, Wednesday night, when Francis LeMaire, the quick-trigger policeman, and Patrolman John Igoe came along and ordered them to shove off. Sat. 8-16-47

According to a reliable eye-witness, Walter Panczyk, 23, a white Navy veteran, Jones asked why they were being singled out and was told by LeMaire, "When a cop tells you to shove off — shove off."

Broke Stick Over Head

Panczyk said that LeMaire punched Jones in the stomach with his nightstick and asked for his identification cards. The policeman, he continued, kept punching until Jones gave him a push.

LeMaire then broke his stick over Jones's head and, when the student took a stand in self-defense, "backed up a couple of steps, whipped out his gun and let go," shooting him in the abdomen, Panczyk stated.

Police records and other witnesses indicated that LeMaire was justified in his action. Those witnesses said that Jones was so much larger than LeMaire that the policeman didn't know what to do.

14e 1947 New York

Defer Trial of Negro Youth Shot by Rookie Policeman

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y. Fri. 9-5-47

By John Hudson Jones

The case of Lloyd C. Jones, Negro youth shot by a rookie cop Aug. 7, was adjourned yesterday until Sept. 15, although the Assistant District Attorney Paul Riley tried to bring it to trial. Amos C. Bowman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jones counsel, argued heatedly for adjournment before Felony Court Judge Ambrose J. Haddock, who also wanted it to go on.

Jones, a voice student, originally charged with felonious assault, is now charged with disorderly conduct. He was critically wounded after Patrolman Francis L. Le Maire on duty for the first time ordered him and several other men to "move on" from a bench in Columbus Circle.

When he was arraigned last Friday, Magistrate Philip B. Thurston reduced the charge to a misdemeanor after Le Maire said his gun went off "accidentally." This story completely differs from the first police account of the incident. At that time Capt. Nicholas J. Gaffney of the West 54th St. 18 Precinct told reporters his investigation showed Le Maire fired when Jones tried to grab his gun.

Bowman and his associate Jawn Sandifer yesterday asked for a two weeks adjournment because their chief eyewitness to the shooting Walter Panczyk, is out of town Panczyk, a 23 year old Navy vet declared just after the incident, that Le Maire deliberately shot Jones without any provocation.

RILEY ARGUES Fri. 9-5-47

Yesterday Riley argued the defense wasn't entitled to another adjournment. Magistrate Thurston having already ordered one last week. Bowman reminded the court Magistrate Thurston had ordered the adjournment after disqualifying himself as trial judge because of his personal feelings in the case.

Judge Haddock, a former policeman, retorted that the defense would "have to be ready today or tomorrow." Bowman then entered all his objections into the record, and Riley accused him of "making speeches claiming the defendant is being discriminated against." Bowman, denied making such accusation and said Riley's statement was "highly improper."

After more verbal fireworks with Bowman, Riley consulted the judge without calling up either of the defense counsel as is customary. He then attempted to get the names of other defense witnesses other than Panczyk. Failing at this, and faced with Bowman's refusal to try the case, Riley agreed to the 11-day postponement.

Jones was in court yesterday and appeared very weak. He has been out of the Roosevelt Hospital only a week where he was near death for several days after being shot in the side. Fri. 9-5-47

After the shooting Councilman Benjamin J. Davis had demanded the suspension of Le Maire, as did the NAACP who branded him "a maddened menace to every single citizen in our city."

Police Wake Jones Witness at 4:30, Grill Him

14e N.Y.

P.M., New York, N.Y.

Sun. 9-21-47

By Jerry Bakst

Walter Panczyk, eyewitness to the shooting of Lloyd Curtis Jones, a Negro, by a rookie policeman in Columbus Circle last Aug. 6, was taken from his bed at 4:30 last Wednesday morning and questioned by detectives at the W. 54th St. station for two and a half hours.

Panczyk

Panczyk's eyewitness version printed in PM Aug. 8, differed sharply from the official police version of the incident. According to his version, the shooting of Jones was unprovoked and unjustified.

In the early morning questioning, Panczyk was asked:

¶ His life history, how long he served in the Navy, did his family own its own home.

¶ What he did before he went into the Navy.

¶ Why he gave his eyewitness story of the shooting to PM, and not to the *Daily News* or the *Times*?

¶ Did PM pay him for his story?

¶ Whether he was a Republican, Democrat or Communist?

¶ Whom he had voted for?

The grilling of Panczyk by a lieutenant and two detectives at the W. 54th St. station came a day after the Mayor's Committee on Unity intervened in the Jones case. The Committee requested a lawyer to aid Amos Bowman, counsel for the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People who was assigned to the case shortly after the shooting took place. Sun. 9-21-47

Jones, in critical condition from the gunshot for several days, is now free on $250 bail and is scheduled to go on trial Oct. 7 in Felony Court on a disorderly conduct charge.

Originally, he had been charged with felonious assault. The charge was reduced when Patrolman Francis LeMaire, who shot Jones, testified that his gun went off "accidentally."

LeMaire is still on duty. The NAACP and the Queens Council on Human Relations have asked for his suspension.

In his statement to PM, Panczyk said he was sound asleep in his room at 166 W. 65th St., when at 4:30 a.m. last Wednesday there was a knock on his door and two detectives flashed their badges and ordered him to come down to the station house "for a few questions."

Panczyk told them it was "a fine time of the night" to wake him up.

Come 'Before We Carry You Out'

14e

After the detectives told him to put on his clothes and come with them "before we carry you out," Panczyk said he would not go unless they got a summons. Finally he went.

At the police station, Panczyk says, he was introduced to a "Lievtenant McCaskey."

Panczyk told the police he had worked in a box company in his home town, Battle Creek, Mich., before he enlisted in the Navy. He said he was "100 per cent for this government" and "believed in fighting for this government."

He served four years, nine months seeing action in both Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

He told police his family owned their own home in Battle Creek.

"Then," Panczyk told PM, "they started to ask me questions about the Jones case and what really happened, and I told them I would not make no statements and that the truth of what happened appeared in the PM."

Cops Ask Him His Politics

Sun. 9-21-47

"I says I am merely doing it as right from wrong," Panczyk told PM. "So then they tried to get me to make statements that the colored fellow was in the wrong."

"So they asked me whether I was a Republican, Democrat or Communist. I told them I don't know, I'm just now studying up on it, whether to be a Republican or a Democrat. And they says what am I, who do I vote for, so I told them I only voted once in my life and that was down at Pearl Harbor in 1944 and I voted for President Roosevelt. That's the only person I voted for."

Panczyk was asked how he spent his time. In answering, he mentioned that a few nights a week he spent in Columbus Circle, 'because it's summer," and the police said that 'I shouldn't hang around Columbus Circle because there's a lot of Communist Party hanging around there."

The police released him about 7 a.m., after about two-and-a-half hours and drove him home.

Late Friday, after being advised by PM of Panczyk's statement, Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander said that an investigation would be started and that if any officer is found guilty of violating the regulations or of misconduct, appropriate action would be taken.

Negro Vet Tells How Cop Beat Him

14e N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

Daily Worker

A Negro veteran, beaten and hauled into court for alleged disorderly conduct yesterday turned on the plaintiff, Patrolman James Fisher **of Harlem's 32d Precinct, and charged him with "beating me for no good reason." The veteran, Benjamin Gibbs, 29, 118 W. 133d St., was brutally attacked last Tuesday night and arrested while chatting with friends on a street corner.**

The case was adjourned to the Washington Heights Magistrates Court until Oct. 22. Gibbs, a wiry, pleasant-looking man, brought this latest incident of Harlem police brutality to Councilman Benjamin J. Davis. New York N.Y.

Gibbs, a porter in the Astor Hotel, said he and two friends, Albert Brown, 60 East 131 St. and "Sonny" West, 36 West 132d St. were chatting on the corner of 132d St. and Lenox Ave. An unidentified policeman told them. "Move on." They crossed the street. Then along came Patrolman Fisher, who told them to "Get out of here."

"I said to the fellows," Gibbs declared yesterday, 'Gee, it's getting so you can't even stand on the street'." Fri. 10-17-47

He said the policeman called him back and asked him what he was "mumbling" about.

"I repeated it," Gibbs said, "and then he punched me with his fist."

The veteran said he then asked Fisher, "What's the matter, why are you hitting me?"

As an answer Fisher began swinging his nightstick, cutting Gibbs' head and bruising his arm and side.

Fisher then took him to the Harlem Hospital for treatment, and then to the 32nd Precinct where he was booked.

Yesterday, having no lawyer, he obtained an adjournment, after which he came to Davis' office. His two friends, he said, would testify for him.

At the 32nd Precinct, Captain David Levy, reading from the blotter, said Gibbs was arrested for 'fighting and cursing an officer."

Davis yesterday expressed indignation at the incident.

"The Mayor and the police commissioner," he declared, "were 'shocked' when an Associated Press photographer Murray Becker, was assaulted and beaten by a policeman following an alleged traffic violation. But neither the Mayor or the police commissioner have ever expressed any 'shock' or the slightest bit of interest in any of the numerous police beatings that have occurred during recent months against Negro citizens.

"Every democratic fair-minded citizen of this city should protest this assault to the Mayor and the Police Commissioner, demanding that the cop be suspended from the force and given a departmental trial."

Gibbs was directed to the Civil Rights Congress, where his case was taken by Attorney Sol Cohn.

Hearing Tomorrow on Seamen Beaten by Cops

Daily Worker New York.

By John Hudson Jones

Charges against two seamen who were beaten by two Harlem detectives were postponed yesterday for hearings tomorrow (Friday) in Washington Heights Court. The seamen, one a Negro and the other a Dutch citizen, lodged assault complaints against the two arresting detectives. Thu. 12-18-47

The defendants are Randolph Sutherland, 32, 143 W. 117 St. and Antonie Van Kouteren, 19, 25 South St., the Seaman's Church Institute. Van Kouteren's home is Amsterdam, Holland.

They charge Detectives Thomas A. Twomey and George Killoran of the 28th Precinct beat them on Dec. 8.

Sutherland is a member of the National Maritime Union, which has demanded an investigation of the incident.

Both are defended by Edward J. Malament, of the office of William L. Standard, NMU counsel.

Block told the court yesterday it had come to CRC's attention that there "was excess and unwarranted abuse of these persons' rights," and that "obviously there was an assumption that it is unlawful for a Negro and a white person to walk together in Harlem."

Magistrate Sala noted the appearance of the CRC and NMU counsels and said the case's implications were "very grave." Declaring that "in matters of economic and political philosophy I am what is ambiguously known as a liberal" he asked the cops' counsel Moses Polakoff, if he should be disqualified. Polakoff, one time counsel for Lucky Luciano, the gangster, answered "No," and added that he was himself a "radical Republican" who had defended unions and union members.

Magistrate Sala suggested the postponement, as "such a case will require considerable time."

In court also was Sutherland's fiance, Miss Luisa Prado, 7 W. 111 St.

Davis Says Wallander Incites Cop Violence

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

10-22-47

By Michael Singer

Police Commissioner Wallander's whitewash of the savage beating by police of a Harlem cigar store owner Saturday was a "signal for further police violence, particularly against Negroes," Councilman Benjamin J. Davis charged yesterday. At a press conference in City Hall Davis ripped into Wallander's exoneration of the police who slugged Samuel T. Symonette, 42, Saturday morning at 101 W. 143 St. Symonette's wife was at the press conference.

Wed. 10-22-47

Davis said he and the people of Harlem were opposed to riots but that if disorders occurred because of police violence the responsibility should be placed on the "callous muss 'em up attitude shown by Wallander in the Symonette case."

Wallander has said that the detectives who attacked Symonette and broke soda pop bottles over his head while allegedly looking for policy slips in his tiny store had "used no more force than they had to." This statement, Davis told reporters, is "the most callous ever issued by the police department, and raises in my mind a serious question of Wallander's fitness to remain in office." Wed.

TELLS OF BEATING

Mrs. Orrie Symonette, 38, wife of the victim, told reporters how her husband was so badly beaten that "he is still confined to bed and cannot sit up," in their home at 660 E. 166 St., the Bronx. She said X-rays taken of his skull will be ready today and "then we'll know how bad his condition is."

Davis said if the City Council did not act on the resolution for a public hearing and an investigation into police brutalities "especially against Negroes," which he has introduced, he intended "to take the

fight up to the state the district attorney's office and the federal gov- violence."

He announced he had called a conference for Friday at 8:30 p.m. at Harlem's Solidarity House, 124 W. 124 St., as public service to the community and the City of New York "to map action against police violence.

LIKE CAROLINA TRIAL

The Communist councilman compared Wallander's brusque dismissal of the Symonette caes to the Greenville, S. C., trial where the jury freed lynchers. "Wallander's attitude is the sort of thing that leads to riots, and the greatest possible tension between the police and the people of Harlem," Davis asserted.

"Heaven forbid that it does," Davis added. "But if that happens, the responsibility will fall on the attitude of Wallander as expressed in his statement this morning."

Davis told of 26 cases of police brutality in the last year and a half involving Negro victims, "16 of which came directly from my office and which I personally brought to the attention of the commissioner."

"What happened to those cases?" a reporter asked him.

"I always got the same letter saying the commissioner had turned the letter over to the proper authorities, that he had directed an investigation and that I would hear from him. I never heard from Wallander in a single instance," Davis declared.

WON'T PERMIT EVASION

He charged Wallander had never prompted a departmental hearing, had never heard witnesses, and had never taken up the charges presented to him. In Symonette's case, Davis said, he was determined such evasions and disregard of the facts would not take place.

"This case is an outrage. All I am asking for is simple justice and a hearing. Let the commissioner hear the other side of the story. The fact will convince any reasonable man of the extraordinary injustice in this case."

Asked to comment on Mayor O'Dwyer's reported statement, that "these cases are not unusual" Davis replied:

"Evidently Wallander has not kept the Mayor posted of the increased police brutality where Negroes are concerned."

Another reporter queried Davis on his reaction to the police assault against Murray Becker, Associated Press photographer.

"I am against police brutality of any kind," Davis replied.

"Certainly there are white citizens attacked and beaten by the cops, but apparently the Mayor's intervention in the Becker case indicated there is one law for whites and another law in connection with police brutality where the Negro people are involved."

Present at the interview was Dorothy Langston of the Civil Rights Congress who said CRC is demanding suspension and departmental trial for the four detectives, compensation for injuries sustained by Symonette, and withdrawal of Wallander's "rough 'em up" order.

The CRC has retained Joseph Tauber, 291 Broadway to represent CRC and Mr. and Mrs. Symonette. wed. 10-22-47

Felony Court Judge Francis X. Giaccone yesterday decided to wait until Oct. 28 before he rules on the case of a Negro youth who was shot by a cop Aug. 7, at olumbus Circle. He told Assistant District Attorney Paul F. Riley and defense counsel Abraham Gelligoff, he had received the transcript of an Oct. 7 hearing on Monday.

The youth, Lloyd C. Jones, is charged with disorderly conduct though he was critically wounded by rookie Patrolman Francis LeMaire, who at the time of the shooting had been on his first beat on 25 minutes. Judge Giaccone must say whether Jones is guilty or not.

Davis Resolution Goes to Committee

Wed. 10-22-47

Daily Worker, N.Y.N.Y.

The City Council yesterday referred a resolution by Benjamin J. Davis, Communist, calling for a special probe and public hearing on police brutality to its Committee on Rules.

Supported by his colleague from Brooklyn, Peter V. Cacchione, Davis called on other councilmen or "the Council as a whole" to join him in sponsoring his resolution. Except for laborites, not a single member of the Council responded to his plea.

COP'S VICTIM RELEASED

Lloyd C. Jones, 29-year-old Negro shot by a rookie cop was found guilty yesterday of disorderly conduct, but received a suspended sentence from Felony Court Judge Francis X. Giaccone. Jones was shot on Columbus Circle, Aug. 7, by Patrolman Francis Le aMire.

Judge Giaccone told defense counsel Abraham Gellinoff, he thought Jones had "been punished enough." Gellinoff's move to have the charge dismissed was denied.

Jones, who was not in court yesterday because of a family death in Thomasville, Ga., was shot in the stomach after Le Maire told him to move on from a park bench.

He was charged at first with felonious assault. Subsequently the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People assigned Amos Bowman to defend him, and later the Mayor's Committee on Unity entered the case and employed Gellinoff.

In another instance of police brutality, the beating of Samuel T. Symonette, 42 year-old Harlem cigar store operator, the case was adjourned until Nov. 6, in both Gamblers and Felony Courts.

14e 1947 New York

NMU Hales Cop Into Court In Beating of Two Seamen

Daily World. New York. N.Y.

Wed. 12-17-47

By John Hudson Jones

The National Maritime Union yesterday demanded an investigation of police brutality against two seamen, one a Negro, the other white. In letters to Mayor O'Dwyer and Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander, the union's New York Port Agent Paul Palazzi, accused two 28 Precinct detectives of an 'inexcusable abuse of authority," and demanded their punishment.

Palazzi said a summons had been served on one detective identified as Thomas A. Twomey, returnable today at 10 a.m. before Magistrate J. Roland Sala in the uptown court, and that "the two seamen are prepared to indentify the other officer at that time." They will be represented by NMU attorney Edward J. Maloament. Daily World

The two seamen Randolph Sutherland, 32 a Negro, of 143 W. 117 St. and Antonie Van Kouteren, a Dutch citizen, were beaten in Harlem about midnight, Dec. 8. Charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, they were released under $100 bail each. New York. N.Y.

Sutherland said yesterday that a woman friend and Van Kouteren were walking along Lenox Ave. near 111 St., when the two plainclothes men jumped from an automobile.

"They asked Tony where he was going. When he asked why they wanted to know, he got a punch in the jaw." Sutherland said when he attempted to explain that Van Kouteren was a seaman friend, the two cops began beating him with blackjacks.

"They hit me in the stomach and in the mouth. My lip was split and my teeth fell out."

TOLD TO PLEAD GUILTY

Sutherland and Van Kouteren were then taken to the 28th Precinct. There they were searched. "When they saw I was a member of the NMU they threw my papers on the floor, called me a Communist, and started beating me again," Sutherland said.

The Negro seaman charges in an affidavit that after the beating he was made to sleep on a wooden bench without food or medical attention.

Before they were arraigned the next day, Sutherland charges that one of the detectives told them to plead guilty and "maybe" the judge would be "lenient."

The beating of Sutherland and

SUTHERLAND

DEPUTY SHERIFF BLUFFS COP

Willie Bryant Acts in Capacity to Avert Near Riot in Station

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK (PAP) — While passing through the Pennsylvania railroad depot en route to boarding a train for Washington, D.C., recently, Willie Bryant, former bandleader and emcee of the Mutual's "Hospitality Club," was responsible for quelling what purported to be a near riot.

Noticing a crowd gathering in his path, Bryant glanced into the center of the mob and spotted a special station policeman unnecessarily "roughing up" a small lad who had been shining shoes in the station.

Wedging his way through the crowd, Mr. Bryant interceded to protect the child.

Calls Cop's Bluff

The policeman became nasty with Bryant but changed his tone when Willie showed him his deputy sheriff's badge, then an entirely new aspect came over the whole fray.

The chief of the station policemen was also an observer from a balcony in the Station Master's office window, and Willie suggested that the officer take him to his office after he demanded that the somewhat inebriated cop release the child.

The cop took a tumble for the worse when the chief thanked Willie for his quick judgment and cool manner in settling what might have been a serious racial disturbance, as many travelers passing through the station at the time were resentful of the uncalled-for manhandling of the lad.

Negroes Cite 26 Cases Of Police Brutality

The Worker

New York. N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

Magistrate J. Roland Sala said Harlem cops are "genteel and "over cautious" Thursday but 26 documented cases of police brutality against Negro citizens say different. The cases were presented to Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander several months ago by Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, but Wallander told his men to "rough 'em up." Now Councilman Davis "as a last resort within our community" has asked Mayor O'Dwyer to stop "the wanton, Nazi-like police brutality against Negroes."

"It is necessary for you to speak out against the pattern of one law for white victims and another law for Negro victims of police brutality."

The Communist Councilman reminded the Mayor of his inmediate action in the case of Murray Becker, a white photographer beaten by a cop on Oct. 6. The mayor ordered District Attorney Hogan to take the case to the grand jury, and told the DA he would be a witness if necessary. Sun. 12-28-47

THE COP was later prosecuted in the municipal court, but was freed. Patrolman Thomas L. Reilly was dismissed from the service after brutalizing a woman, even though she couldn't be found to testify against him. And Detective John T. O'Connor was suspended pending his trial for beating a veteran.

Davis pointed out that "in all these cases the victims were white" and expressed his gratification that some action was taken. But Davis said "I would like to know why policemen are given immunity when they brutalize Negro citizens."

"My experience with Commissioner Wallender over a period of 18 months convinces me that it is futile to expect any proper action on his part."

Davis hit the "redbaiting conceptions" in and about the Police Department which he declared "contemptuosly pushed aside" demands for action, because "Communists, among others have persisted in the fight to end the evil of police brutality."

RECALLING THE PROPOSAL made recently by the President's Committee on Civil Rights to enact federal legislation dealing with police brutality, Davis urged the city administration to enact "policies designed to implement this sound recommendation."

"Unless you as Mayor of the City of New York, intervene to see that redress and justice is given in these cases, I am convinced that police violence committed against many Negro citizens will go unpunished."

Councilman Davis has announced that a pamphlet based on the 26 cases is being prepared by his office "as a public service to acquaint the people with the seriousness of this menace to public safety."

The Worker.

MAGISTRATE SALA'S brazen defense of two detectives who beat a Negro and a Dutch seaman highlighted Davis' contentions.

Terming himself a "liberal" Sala described Harlem cops as "so cautious, so sensitive, so over-diplomatic . . . thy are not as vigorous and effective as they should be . . . They are examples of gentility . . .'" He declared that certain groups have raised "hue and cry" every time the police tried to protect "law and order." New York. N.Y.

Here are a few recent examples of the cops "protecting law and order." Sun. 12-28-47

On July 14, 1946, a policeman beat and kicked Mrs. Josie Stewart, and Mrs. Helen Urquhart, two Negro mothers, after they had an altercation with a taxi driver who refused to take them to the Bronx. Mrs. Stewart was given 30 days in Special Sessions for "assaulting" the cop.

Harold Jones, a fruit peddler argued with a merchant that short changed him on Feb. 11, 1947. The merchant called the cops who took Jones under the 155 St. viaduct and beat him unconscious. Jones came to and crawled into Eighth Ave. The same cops came by in a cruiser, picked him up, took him back to the bridge and again beat him unconscious. **Today he is permanently disabled.**

When Marshall Clemons refused to submit to the abuse of a drunken cop, William Glynn, he was shot in the neck by Glynn on July 31. The cop, off duty at the time was pronounced drunk by a police surgeon.

Patrolman Francis Le Maire had been on duty the first time for only 25 minutes when he beat and shot Lloyd C. Jones, a young Negro singing student. Jones was at first charged with felonious assault, then disorderly conduct. After being on the critical list for a month he was found guilty and given a suspended sentence.

Benjamin Gibbs, a veteran was standing on the corner of Lenox Avenue and 132 St. Oct. 14, when a cop told he and a friend to "move on."

"We crossed the street, and another cop came by and told us the same thing. I said, "Gee it's getting so you can't even stand on the corner and talk."

The cop set upon Gibbs with nightstick and fists, arrested him for disorderly conduct. The charges were dismissed.

A cigar store owner, Samuel T. Symonette, protested when four detectives began searching his store without a warrant. They beat him with guns, blackjacks, Pepsi-Cola bottles and their feet. He was charged with assault. His case is stil pending.

These are the "genteel" fellows Sala so eloquently defended and suggested they weren't as "vigorous" as they should be.

12.

14e 1947

New York

Face to Face

The Worker New York N.Y.

Police Brutality Against Negroes Mounts, But Commissioner Wallander Won't Budge

By Benjamin J. Davis

Sun. 10-26-48

LAST Saturday, Oct. 18, the Harlem Communist Party and my Councilmanic office jointly submitted to Police Commissioner Wallander the facts on one of the most outrageous cases of police brutality in recent years. That morning, Orrie Symonette, a Negro storekeeper in Harlem, whom four policemen claimed they were trying to arrest, was dragged into a room of his place of business and beaten for a solid half hour. The man was beaten almost beyond recognition. It was a sheer orgy of barbarism, and on Tuesday, Oct. 21, Symonette was still confined to his bed.

To cover their crime, the police charged their victim with "felonious assault," which is the usual frame-up procedure. The policemen used the flimsy pretext that Symonette tried to bite or scratch them. In all probability, this means that the policemen resented their victim's effort to shield himself from being murdered on the spot. (Is it that victims of police violence have to smile and like it too?)

On October 21, Commissioner Wallander declared that the police involved had used "no more force than necessary" and that the "case is closed." The Commissioner did this without investigation, hearing or without giving the complainant any opportunity to be heard on his charges, even though one of the complainants happens to carry the public confidence of being elected to public office—not appointed.

* * *

THE COMMISSIONER'S high-handed disposition of the Symonette case is a foul, revolting whitewash. The indecent haste with which he moved to "clear" these men, without hearing one shred of evidence, strongly confirms their guilt. In any event, Wallander's disposition of the case is not acceptable—and will not be accepted.

The manner in which the Commissioner handled this case is a green light to police violence, especially against Negroes who are the worst victims. One is compelled to compare it with the whitewash of the lynchers in Greenville, S. C. The Commissioner's admitted order to the police to "be kind to the good and rough to the bums and criminals" makes individual policemen the sole judge, jury and executioner of whether a person is a bum or a responsible citizen. The category of "bums and criminals" is one reserved evidently for the Negro people, but it includes also Associated Press photographers.

Wallander is conducting his office in a thoroughly incompetent manner. His handling of the Symonette case raises serious questions as to his fitness. Already the Mayor has had to intervene to force a grand jury investigation of the police violence against Maurice Becker, the Associated Press photographer.

* * *

WHEN THE MAYOR states that the recent five cases of police brutality are "unusual," he is a badly informed man. My office alone has submitted to Commissioner Wallander 26 cases of police brutality against Negroes primarily, in the last 18 months. Not a single action has been secured from the Commissioner on even one, and some are equally as horrible as the Symonette case where Negro women were beaten and kicked by policemen. It may be surprising how many of these cases grew out of the fraternal and social association of Negroes and whites together—the very basis of the trade union movement in New York.

There is being carried out in New York City one law for Negroes who are victims of police brutality and another law for white victims. The failure to do anything about Negro victims, has caused police violence to spread to whites as well. Being victims of job-discrimination, Negroes cannot wait until they become Associated Press photographers before the Mayor takes any action when they are brutalized by policemen. Police brutality has become a serious public menace to our city—to the peace, order and civil liberties of the people. And there will be more of the same and worse—if PR should be defeated, if the sinister political bosses can hand-pick the City Council, in addition to hand-picking nearly everything else.

Negroes, trade unionists, Communists and other solid citizens in New York don't have weak nerves. They won't be intimidated by red-baiting, witch-hunts, and police terror. The people will continue to struggle until police brutality is stopped!

COUNCIL HEARING ON BEATINGS URGED

Times, New York, N.Y.

Davis Terms Police Brutality 'Serious Public Issue'—Mayor May Be Witness in One Case

10-21-47

10-21-47

Asserting that "unjustified police brutality has become a serious public issue," Councilman Benjamin Davis Jr. filed a resolution yesterday calling upon the City Council to hold a public hearing "because the Police Department has failed to take proper action to curb and suppress it." The matter will be acted upon today.

Neither Mayor O'Dwyer nor Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander would discuss the issue. When asked for comment on the five alleged recent instance of unwarranted force usde by the police, the Mayor said: "Things are going on a regular course." Times.

Mayor Wanted as Witness

While the Mayor would not elaborate it was indicated that he would be a witness later this week when the case involving Murray Becker, Associated Press photographer, comes before Magistrate Leonard McGee in Mid-Manhattan Court. 10-21-47

Mr. Becker will be tried on Thursday on a charge of disorderly conduct that stemmed from an argument on Oct. 6 when Patrolman James P. Harrington stopped him for a minor traffic violation. Mr. Becker charged that the policeman pummeled him and dragged him into the station house.

When the matter came up in court yesterday Mr. Becker's attorney, Irving Mendelsohn, asked that it be put over for ten days. He said he might need the Mayor and other high city officials as witnesses and was doubtful if they could be summoned on "such short notice." Saying that the case "had hung fire long enough," the court told the lawyer that if the facts warranted supboenas for those persons a suitable adjournment would be arranged.

The District Attorney's office still is investigating the incident at the request of the Mayor, who acted after Mr. Becker, bruised and battered, had appeared in his office to protest. No action has been taken against the patroman.

Announced Stand Altered

The Police Department altered its previously announced stand to let a magistrate decide if Peter Trian, wounded war veteran, had been the victim of an unwarranted attack by Detective John T. O'Connor in front of the main desk of the West Twentieth Street station house early Saturday.

Instead, it was made know that a departmental trial would be held next week and the veterans' allegations would be incorporated in a complaint against O'Connor, now under suspension. Mr. Trian and his wife, Anna, have been subpoenaed to testify.

Soon after the alleged beating three preliminary police charges were held but they produced "so much conflicting evidence" that Chief of Detectives George P. Mitchell ordered the matter referred to magistrate's court to determine what action should be taken. He aid then his decision was made to avoid any appearance of a police "whitewash." It could not be learned last night what had caused the department's change of mind.

As that development was disclosed Mr. Trian filed with Mr. Wallander and the Mayor an affidavit that reviewed his previous testimony and contained additional charges. It alleged that O'Connor had struck Mrs. Trian and that Lieut. Michael Connolly, on desk duty, had tried to get the Trians to "forget" about pressing charges if the detective was punished.

Reports on Harlem Case

Mr. Wallander reported that a police investigation of the alleged beating of Samuel T. Symonette in his store in Harlem showed that "no more force than necessary" had been used in effecting Symonette's arrest for policy law violation. He is accused also of having assaulted the plainclothes detail that arrested him. Mr. Wallander said he contemplated no further action.

In Felony and Gamblers Courts an adjournment until Monday was granted Symonettee, an admitted former policy collector, on a doctor's certificate that he was in bed as the result of injuries which, he says, were inflicted by the police.

Davis to Ask City Council Probe Police Brutality

Daily Worker

The City Council today will be asked to hold a public hearing and set up a special committee to investigate police violence and brutality. The request is contained in a resolution to be introduced at today's meeting by Communist Councilman Benjamin J. Davis of Manhattan. N.Y. N.Y.

Declaring that "unjustified police brutality has become a serious public issue menacing . . . peace and order" and, "is an invasion of civil liberties." Davis' resolution charges that the Police Department "has failed to take proper action to curb and redress" such brutalities "especially where Negro citizens are concerned."

7 V 25

Councilman Davis' resolution grew out of the sixth police attack on civilians in the last 11 days, when on Saturday, three 10th Division (Harlem) detectives beat Samuel T. Symonette, 42, candy store operator at 101 W. 143 St. In a complaint lodged personally with Mayor O'Dwyer, Davis named detectives Emanuel Berson, James MacCarthy, and Luigi Cardile as Symonette's attackers.

10-21-47

The wounded man was arrested and charged with felonious assault by Patrolman Alexander Kahn, of the 32 Precinct, who claims he was bitten. He is also charged with taking numbers, for which he has a previous conviction on 1943.

SUFFERS INJURIES

Yesterday hearings against him in Gamblers and Felony Courts were adjourned until Oct. 28, on the request of Symonette's physician, Dr. John C. Weaver. In his report, Dr. Weaver said Symonette suffered severe "multiple" contusions, possible skull fractures, and that he suspected "internal hemorrhages," which will be brought to light by X-ray if so.

The Davis resolution notes that police brutality has "become so outrageous" that "the Mayor . . . has taken note of it and has expressed the need for a Grand Jury investigation in certain cases."

He was referring to the charges of Murray Becker, Associated Press photographer that Patrolman James P. Harrington beat him, and like charges against Detective Edwin Morton charged with assaulting Mary C. Sullivan, superintendent of nurses at Harbor Hospital, Brooklyn. A patrolman Russel C. Wolfe of the 32nd Precinct is also charged with beating Samuel Grossman a Bronx storekeeper and of calling him a "dirty Jew."

The Daily Worker reported on Oct. 17 the charges of Benjamin Gibbs, Negro veteran who accused patrolman James Fisher of the 32nd Precinct of beating him. His case comes up before the Washington

Heights Magistrates Court, tomorrow.

TO RENDER DECISION

Today Felony Court Judge Francis X. Giaccone, is scheduled to render a decision on disorderly conduct charges against Lloyd C. Jones, Negro youth shot by patrolman Francis Le Maire, on Aug. 7. Judge Giaccone heard an eyewitness, Walter F. Panczyk, testify on Oct. 7 that Le Maire deliberately beat and shot Jones for no good reason. The Mayor's Committee on Unity intervened and supplied Jones with counsel.

When Symonette was beaten Saturday, the community was roused to high indignation, and large crowds were dispersed by a riot squad. The Ben Davis Club of the Harlem Communist Party has demanded the removal of Captain David Levy commander of the 32nd Precinct to be replaced by a Negro captain. It will hold a mass meeting at 8:30 p.m. tonight at 143 St. and Lenox Ave., the corner where Symonette has operated his candy store for the past 10 years.

NAACP OFFICIAL APPOINTED TO STUDY POLICE BRUTALITY

November 14, 1947

New York, Nov. 13th--Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallender today appointed Madison S. Jones, NAACP administrative assistant, to a committee which will cooperate with high police officials in the city's current investigation into charges of police brutality and discriminatory police practices. Press Service for the National Association for the advancement of colored People

At a meeting in the Police Commissioner's office on Wednesday, November 12th, Mr. Jones strongly urged that the police department immediately institute a program of indoctrination both in the police academy and in refresher courses for New York's patrolmen in equitable treatment and democratic attitudes toward the city's many racial and religious groups. Mr. Jones also pointed out the fact that every citizen, regardless of race or creed had a right to frequent any section of the city at any time, provided his business was legitimate. He then urged that reported cases of police brutality and increasing intimidation be investigated thoroughly. New York, New York

Other members of the committee include Rev. John H. Johnson, Edward Lewis, of the Urban League; Parole Commissioner Samuel Battles and a representative of the Negro press.

BEATEN BY 3 COPS: Samuel T. Symonette, 42, owner of store at 101 W. 143rd St., is home in bed at 660 E. 166 St., Bronx, after three Harlem detectives beat him Saturday with pistols and Pepsi-Cola bottles. Arrested for "assaulting the cops," he was kept in the 32nd Precinct with possible skull fractures for over 12 hours, then released under $1,000 bail.

Negro Youth Jailed After Cop Beats Him Near Home

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

Fri. 11-7-47 Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

Patrolman George Romanovich, of the 92nd Precinct knocked down, kicked and beat up a 16-year-old Negro lad at Brooklyn's Fort Greene homes, the Daily Worker learned yesterday. The youth, Calvin Moore, 75 Cumberland Walk, is being held in the Raymond Street jail under $5,000 bail for allegedly "possessing a burglar tool."

The eye-witness story of the beating which occurred Saturday night was described by Otis Willis, 15, 56 N. Oxford Walk, who said that Romanovich also lived in the interracial project. Willis was interviewed in the Moore apartment. Present were Calvin's parent Theodore, and Vera Moore.

GOING TO PARTY

Willis said he, Moore, and Tyler Toulon, 16, 145 N. Elliott Walk were standing in front of 110 Monument Walk, Saturday night, waiting for other friends. They were going to a party. 11-7-47

A woman later identified as Mrs. Romanovich, Willis said came by, stopped looked at them angrily, and went in the house. "A few minutes later, a man came down, and started to cursing at us, and asking what the h . . . l we were doing."

Willis said that he and Toulon told the man (Romanovich) who was off duty and in civilian clothes they were waiting for someone. But Moore asked him why he wanted to know.

Romanovich immediately knocked Moore down, and kicked him.

"Then he flashed his badge at us," Willis said.

Romanovich then called unidentified Project Cops, who in turn called police from the 88th Precinct. They arrested Moore, and Willis.

At the station house, Willis, declares, detectives slapped and beat them both when they talked to each other.

"They asked us what organizations we belonged to. I told him I was in the A.Y.D. (American Youth for Democracy), and they asked me what the leaders' names were." Daily worker

After several hours he was permitted to go home, Willis said, but Moore was kept. Romanovich said he found a "burglar tool" on him. The $5,000 bails was set Monday by Adolescent Court Judge John F. X. Masterson. New York, N.Y.

He declared that in court Monday, Romanovich told the judge the boys had "no business" being in front of the house. Judge Masterson however, ignored this declaring he was "only interested" in the charges. Fri. 11-7-47

BEATEN IN JAIL

Mr. Willis, a heavy set laboring man, said that he'd talked to his son Tuesday, and that the boy told him, detectives again beat him and forced him to sign a paper. He did not know what was on it.

Richard Johnson, Communist Party leader of the huge project said his group and several other project organizations were planning protest action, to the police, city, and housing authorities.

Moore's case will be heard today in Adolescent Court, 31 Snyder St

14e 1947

New York

Cops Beat Up Peddler, Return to Finish Job

Daily Worker New York N.Y.

Harold Jones, 44, Negro fruit peddler of 2799 Eighth Ave., was beaten by two unidentified policemen Tuesday night and left unconscious under the 155th Street viaduct. 14e N.Y.

He was not arrested.

Jones, a stocky man, spoke with great difficulty yesterday when interviewed at his home. His upper plate was broken during the beating. A puffy closed right eye was discharging. He had a deep scalp laceration on the right side of his head; deep mouth cuts inside and on his lips; loosened bottom teeth; bruises on both legs, stomach and back and possible internal injuries. Tue. 2.14-46

The beating occurred, Jones told the Daily Worker, about 11:45 p.m. It was after an argument about a debt with a Negro storekeeper, George Louis, of 2772 Eighth Ave.

After a few angry words, Jones says he walked out of the store with a bag of food. Louis followed and hailed a passing police car.

SLOW, GETS HIT

The cops stopped Jones and brought him back to the little store, where they demanded his draft card.

"I had the bag of groceries and was a little slow getting to my wallet," Jones said. "Before I could get it out the smaller cop hit me in the mouth with his fist."

(At his store, Louis, a short, wiry man with eyeglasses, told the Daily Worker:)

"Sure: the cop hit him. But he was talking back."

The cops then took him from the store, put him into their car and drove to a dark spot under the viaduct seven blocks away.

There they knocked him down, beat him with their nightsticks and kicked him in the back and stomach. Then they left him doubled up on the ground in pain.

SECOND BEATING

"I finally managed to get up and went back to the store for my wallet," Jones said.

While in the store this time the same cops drove by again and saw him. They stopped and came in.

Jones claimed that one said:

"Here's the s----- again. We'll fix him good this time."

They took him back to the same spot under the viaduct and went to work on Jones in earnest.

"They beat and kicked me again and dared me to holler. Then they started poking me in the stomach with the sticks and I passed out." Tue 2.14-46

When he came to about an hour and a half later they were gone. He staggered home. He was unable to tell his wife, Grace, what had happened until the next morning.

STOREKEEPER RELUCTANT

Louis was reluctant to talk about the incident yesterday, and said he didn't know the names of the cops.

"I'm sorry he got beat up, and I didn't want him arrested," Louis said. "But the fact is I didn't owe him a penny."

At the 32d Precinct Station, the desk sergeant said it was impossible to determine what car and officers were in that vicinity at that time.

"It couldn't have happened," he scoffed. "We have no record of it here. Why didn't the guy make a complaint?"

"And anyway," he added, "there's more and better places to take a guy and beat him up than the 155th Street viaduct."

Homes Shut Up, Negroes Get Police Promises

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.
Sat. 2-1-47

Special to the Daily Worker

BUFFALO, Jan. 31.—Police Commissioner McMahon has promised a delegation protesting the shooting-up of the homes of two Negroes that increased protection would be furnished residents of Buffalo's East Side.

Shots were fired into the apartments of Willie Jones and Hayward Graham, at 78 Trenton Ave., at 2:30 a.m., Dec. 31. No arrests have been made to date.

The delegation was organized by the West Side Club of the Communist Party. It demanded a full probe and more police consideration for the Negro community. 2-1-47

Cops Beat Evicted Youth Here

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

A slight 18-year-old Puerto Rican youth was beaten by four city police in East Harlem yesterday. The police later invaded the hospital emergency room where he was getting first aid, stopped a nurse from dressing cuts on his face, and kicked him into the street. They told the youth not to go to another hospital. Daily Worker

Eufemio Rivera, told the Daily Worker the story yesterday at the East Harlem Communist headquarters, 1549 Madison Ave., to which Party members had brought him.

He had been standing on the corner of 106 St. and Madison Ave. at 7 a.m. when a prowl car passed. Having been evicted the night before from 26 E. 106 St. he had spent the night in the streets and in nearby Central Park. Mon.

"Two of them got out and asked me what I was doing," he explained in Spanish. "I told them about being put out of my home. So they took me there." 4-7-47

Gabino Hernandez had been charging him $5 a week to sleep on a floor in his apartment.

When questioned by the cops, Hernandez, evidently afraid of getting involved, told them a confusing story. When Rivera tried to explain the facts one of the cops began hitting him. Then the other cop kicked him. They left him on the street in a semi-conscious condition. Party members found him and took him to Fifth Avenue Hospital.

Beaten Youth Out of Jail

Daily Worker
New York N.Y.

Calvin Moore, the 16 year-old Negro youth beaten Nov. 1 by a policeman at Brooklyn's Fort Greene Houses, was released from jail Friday in the custody of his parents. Young Moore had been held all week in Raymond Street Jail under $5,000 bail after patrolman George Romanovich beat him and charged he possessed a burglar tool. Mon.

Friday in Adolescent Court, Judge John F. X. Masterson ejected an inter-racial delegation and eye witnesses to the beating. Judge Masterson, however, allowed two of the cop's witnesses to remain. 11-18-47

On Friday night the American Youth for Democracy of Fort Greene held a meeting to protest the beating and arrest of young Moore who is an active member.

In addition to AYD, the project branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the project American Labor Party, the Fort Greene Tenants Association, and the Communist Party have begun action on the case.

Violence in Greenwich Village

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

EQUALLY as dangerous as smallpox is the racist violence which breaks out at frequent intervals in Greenwich Village. Last week-end five Negro and white citizens were assaulted. A Negro disabled veteran and three of his white and Negro friends were injured severely enough to require hospital treatment.

The assaults were not spontaneous. On four or five nights in succession the home of a Negro ex-serviceman on Bedford Street was disturbed. Vulgar epithets were shouted; the door was pounded upon, and threats were made against his person and property. Calls for police protection went unanswered. Thurs. 4-17-47

These acts of mob violence seem to be the inspiration of those who would enforce restrictive covenants with billies and blackjacks. And some members of the police force are looking the other way while Negro citizens are "put in their places."

The Civil Rights Congress is sponsoring a protest mass meeting tonight at 8 p.m. at Jewish Community Center, 6 Fifth Avenue. New York and the Village should give their answer to the terrorists then. The Village—and all of New York City—must be made safe for Negroes.

NAACP JOINS DEFENSE OF BEATEN NEGRO

Daily Worker - Tues 4-22-47 - New York

By John Hudson Jones

MINEOLA, N. Y., April 21.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today entered the case of William J. Dessaure, charged with second degree assault on four cops that beat him June 8. Tues 4-22-47

Before County Judge Ormsby T. Richie, District Attorney James N. Gehrig attacked the NAACP for "bad faith" when attorney Franklin

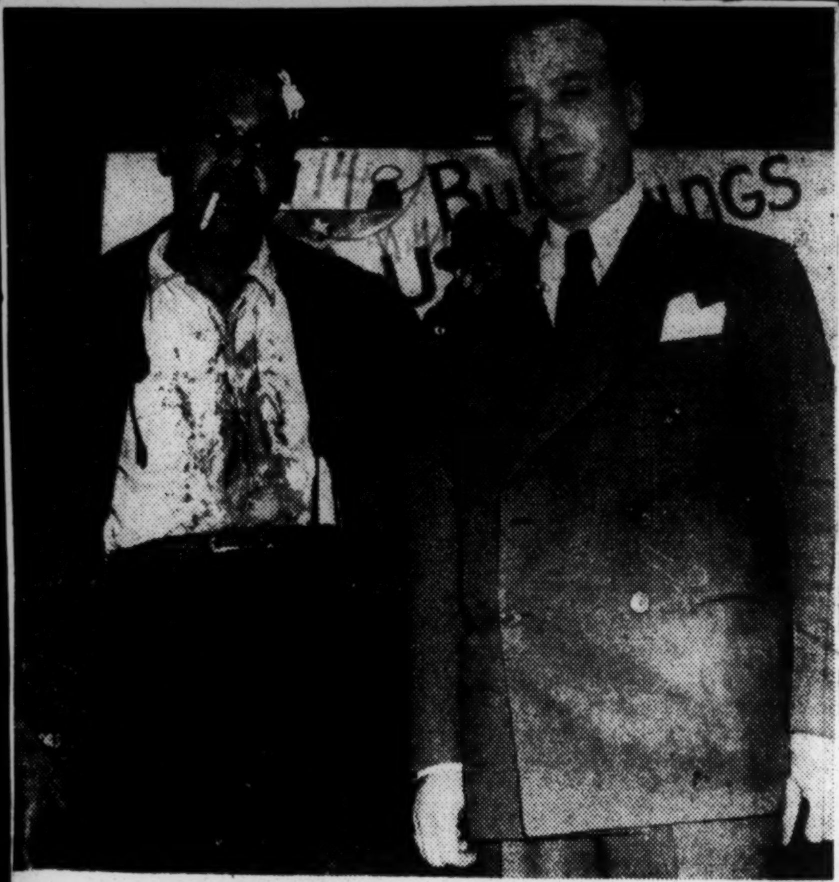
Williams asked for an adjournment. Williams wanted it, he said to prepare support for Dessaure's counsel, Stanley Faulkner. Daily Worker

Ignoring Gehrig's protest Judge Ormsby postponed the trial until 2 p.m., April 28. Tues 4-22-47

Williams declared that he was "surprised at the District Attorney's attack on the NAACP." He went on to say that the NAACP had been entering in cases to protect the civil rights of Negroes since 1910, and "we have never been accused of bad faith before."

Dessaure was beaten after he had reported the presence of a cop in a Rockville Centre gambling house. Williams declared that the NAACP was "convinced that his civil rights were violated." He said that NAACP aid in the case had been requested last week, and that he had received the court records only on Friday.

At police hearings in Rockville Center in July, eye-witnesses testified to the savage beating of Dessaure. On the stand four cops gave conflicting testimony that so contradicted their first charges that they were redrawn by Assistant District Attorney Frank Gulotta. The cops say Dessaure took their billies from them in the station and beat them. Tues 4-22-47



Beaten Negro Faces Trial: William J. Dessaure, 36 (left), lay preacher of Freeport, goes on trial on four charges of second degree assault in Nassau County Court today. He is shown with his attorney, Stanley Faulkner, after he was beaten June 8 by four Rockville Center police for reporting the presence of a cop at gambling joint. But in a county notorious for its policemen's brutality as exemplified in the death of the Ferguson brothers, Dessaure himself was charged with beating the cops!

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y. Mon.

A request by Dessaure's counsel to vacate the indictment because Negroes have been excluded from the county grand jury panel was denied. Nevertheless, two Negroes were addd to the panel last January as a result of the Dessaure case. 2-21-47

Nassau Cop Beats Elderly Negro Here

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y. Wed. 2-26-47

By John Hudson Jones

A Nassau County cop, off duty in New York City, beat up a 60-year-old Negro businessman, Leo Nettleton, early Sunday at the Harlem entrance to the Tri-Borough Bridge. The cop's name is Charles Joseph Ferris of 468 Louis Ave., South Floral Park. His badge number is 235.

Nettleton who operates the Harlem DeLuxe Music Shop at 2146 Seventh Ave., was driving to his home at 106-08 Northern Blvd, Corona, when his motor stalled. The car behind crashed into him.

As he opened his door to get out, he related, "This fellow ran up cursing, flashed a police badge, pulled me out and started to punch me."

After knocking Nettleton to the concrete, Ferris went back to his car, in which another man and a woman were riding. The man had bumped his head on the windshield during the crash.

WOMAN JOINS IN

The woman got out and came back to Nettleton with Ferris, They both proceeded to beat and kick him.

"The woman was cursing and slapping me," Nettleton told the Daily Worker. "And the cop said 'you black s-----b----, if I had my gun with me I'd blow you brains out!'"

After taking all of Nettleton's papers from his pocket, Ferris and the woman left him on the pavement and drove away. Bleeding and bruised, Nettleton managed to get back into his car and drive to the 25th Precinct at 148 E. 126 St., where he reported the incident.

While in the precinct, a report came through from the Hospital for Joint Diseases, where the man in Ferris' car had been taken for treatment. It declared that Nettleton had hit the Ferris car and left the scene of the accident. New York, N.Y.

THREAT REPEATED

Patrolman Cotter (badge no. 10103), who was taking Nettleton's story, took him to the hospital for treatment. His left eye was cut and closed. There were deep lacerations on his ears temple and chin. During the beating Ferris and the woman banged him up and down on the concrete. This resulted in bad knee and shin bruises. 2-26-47

At the hospital, Nettleton said, Ferris again cursed him and in the hearing of Patrolman Cotter and a doctor said again, "If I had my gun I'd blow your brains out!" He claimed that his car, a 1937 Ford, had been hit by Nettleton. Daily Worker

D. A.'S INVESTIGATING

The next day Nettleton reported the incident to city marshal Walter Reifer, a Queens Democratic leader.

Feifer notified the Queens and New York district attorneys, who have assigned investigators.

The Communist Party in Corona is issuing leaflets to the neighborhood and, in cooperation with the local Democratic club and other organizations, is organizing a protest meeting for weekend.

2-26-47 **LEO NETTLETON** N.Y. —Photo by Cappi

Charges Reduced, Jones Freed In $250 Bail

New York, N.Y.

Sun. 8-31-47

P.M.

Lloyd Curtis Jones

Lloyd Curtis Jones, 29, Negro music student, was free Friday in $250 bail on a charge of disorderly conduct. Jones, shot in the stomach during an argument with a cop, August 7, at Central Park South and Columbus Circle, originally was accused of felonious assault, and had been held in the prison ward at Roosevelt Hospital.

After hearing Patrolman Francis Lemaire, the arresting officer, say that his gun went off "accidentally," Magistrate Philip B. Thurston ordered the reduced charge in Felony Court.

According to two witnesses, Walter Panczyk and Walter Wobst, the shooting by the rookie cop was entirely unprovoked.

Panczyk, a veteran of four years in the Navy, told PM that Lemaire, who had only 25 minutes service as a cop when the shooting occurred, hit Jones over the head and broke his nightstick and then shot the Negro as he straightened up after sagging to his knees.

Jones, gaunt and stooped after his three-week siege in the hospital, stoutly maintained his innocence of any crime. The case was adjourned until Sept. 4.

14e 1947 New York (Dessaure)

Judge 'Erred' in Dessaure's Trial, Lawyer Says, Seeks Writ

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.

FREEPORT, L. I. — Stanley Faulkner, attorney for William J. Dassaure, said last week he would seek his freedom through a writ of habaes corpus, on the grounds that his clint, convicted of assault on four Rockville Center policemen last June 8, is being illegally detained Dessaure was indicted originally on four counts. After deliberating about four and a half hours May 2 the jury returned a verdict acquitting him on two counts.

Afro American

The jurors told Judge D. Ormonde Ritchie they could not make up their mindts on the other two counts, but the jurist asked them to tary again. Two and a half hours later, they decided to uphold one of the two remaining counts against Dessaure.

Says Judge Erred

Mr. Faulkner said Judge Ritchie was "in error" in asking the jurors to reconsider their first verdict, since "they oiginally acquitted Dessaure on two counts and disagreed on two others.

He is to be sentenced April 16 and faces up to five years on the lone conviction. Acting Sergt. Joseph Garvey who arrested Dessaure after he reported the officer's presence in a gambling den, made damaging admissions at the trial.

Sat. 5-17-47

Dessaure Gets 1½ to 3 Years' Jail Sentence

Afro American

14e

FREEPORT, L.I.—William J. Dessaure, lay preacher who was convicted May 2, after a clash with four Rockville Center policemen on June 8, was sentenced to one and a half to three years in prison, last week.

Baltimore Md.

The sentence was pronounced by Nassau County Judge D. Ormonde Ritchie. Stanley Faulkner, Dessaure's attorney, filed notice of appeal and asked for a certificate of reasonable doubt to allow the convicted man to be released on bail.

Sat 5-24-47

Grounds for Doubt

The jury that heard the Dessaure trial had told Judge Ritchie, after four hours of deliberation, that they had acquitted the preacher on two of four counts and could not agree on the others. The judge ordered them to reconsider.

After two and a half hours more, they upheld one of the remaining counts. Faulkner charges the judge erred in his order. Dessaured had been arrested after reporting an acting police sergeant's presence in a gambling den.

Dessaure Released On Bail for Appeal

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Fri. 5-30-47

By John Hudson Jones

MINNEOLA, N. Y., May 29.—William J. Dessaure, Freeport Negro lay preacher convicted of assaulting a Rockville Centre cop, was released today from the Nassau County jail on $5,000 bail. Yesterday Supreme Court Justice Henry C. Wenzel, Jr had granted a certificate of reasonable doubt to Attorney Stanley Faulkner, Dessaure's counsel.

Dessaure, 37, father of eight children was in jail three weeks. His wife Mabel with a delegation of friends and five of the children met him on the court house steps after he was freed. Little Mary Elizabeth 3, ran into his arms, while Mrs. Dessaure holding Virginia, 2, crowded around with Jane 4, Caroline 9, and Roberta, 5.

"I sure am glad to be out there, I lost 21 pounds," Dessaure told his wife. Fri. 5-30-47

All smiles Mrs. Dessaure said quietly, "We're glad to see you, Bill."

Dessaure's conviction grew out of an incident with four Rockville Center cops June 8. He was savagely beaten by police on Wellington Place and in the precinct station. His crime was that he had reported the presence of a police sergeant in a gambling house. The cops claimed he beat them up.

14e N.Y.

BEYOND BOUNDS

Justice Wenzel ruled that "The cross examination of the defendant (Frank Gulotta - Assistant D. A.) in regard to his alleged voluntary statement to the police went far beyond the bounds to which examination should be limited and constituted prejudicial material."

During the trial Faulkner moved for a mistrial on the same grounds, but was refused by Judge D. Ormoned, who subsequently sentenced Dessaure to one and one-half to three years. Fri. 5-30-47

Dessaure was indicted on four counts of assault. The jury after four and one-half hours' deliberation returned a verdict of acquittal on two counts and declared they were in "hopeless disagreement" as to the other counts Ritchie asked them to return instead of declaring a hung jury. They returned six hours later with acquittal on one more count and guilty on the last.

JUDGE IN ERROR

Faulkner asserts Ritchie was in error here, and will base an appeal on this fact He will also argue that the indicting Grand Jury was illegally constituted because of "the systematic exclusion of Negroes from Nassau County grand juries"; that the verdict was improper because it was in two parts, and the DA's cross examination exceeded legal bounds. Fri. 5-30-47

During the trial Faulkner and his assistants — ranklin H. Williams of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Raymond S. Harris of the American Jewish Congress, repeatedly objected to Gulotta's presentation of evidence as being prejudicial.

When Dessaure was sentenced on May 16 District Attorney James N. Gehrig personally demanded a heavy sentence alleging that Dessaure was sent to Rockville by some organization and got himself beaten up in a sinister plot against Nassau police.

Faulkner said yesterday the appeal will be argued before the Appellate Division some time in October.

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

14e N.Y.

Fri. 5-30-47

THEY'RE GLAD DADDY'S FREE: Mary Elizabeth, 3, snuggles close to William J. Dessaure on the steps of the Nassau County court house after he was released on bail. Jane, 4, looks on. Convicted of assaulting four Rockville Centre cops last June, Dessaure was himself beaten up. District Attorney James N. Gehrig, still sensitive about the killing of the Freeport Ferguson brothers by a cop, said it was all a plot against Nassau police. See story on page 4.

—Daily Worker Photo by Art

See Basis for Reversal in Dessaure Case Verdict

Daily Worker - Mon 5-5-47
New York, N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

A strong basis for a court reversal is indicated in the refusal of an all-white jury Friday to convict William J. Dessaure, Nassau County Negro, on more than one of the four counts of assault against him. The jury's failure to hold Dessaure guilty on all four counts for a jail term up to 20 years was seen as a hopeful sign since all four counts grew out of the same indictment. Dessaure is in jail awaiting sentence May 16 on the fourth count. Daily Worker

It was a tale of frame-up brutality and conspiracy against this Negro citizen and father of eight, which unfolded in the trial of William J. Dessaure. It began last June when Dessaure reported the presence of a police sergeant at a Rockville Center gambling house, only to end up beaten by cops and then charged himself with assaulting them in their precinct station.

First they accused Dessaure of taking Patrolman Arthur L'Hommedieu's night stick and assaulting him in front of the Wellington Place gambling house. In Police Court hearings last June, when it became evident that eye-witnesses subpoenaed by the DA were telling the truth—that the cops were guilty of assault—the first sworn complaint was changed. Mon 5-5-47

CONVENIENT WITNESSES

The place of Dessaure's alleged attack on four husky cops armed with night sticks and guns, was put where the only witnesses were conveniently the cops themselves And as defense counsel Stanley Faulkner pointed out, then Sgt. Joseph Garvey who signed the complaint knew he was falsely charging a man with a crime. He signed it he said without reading it—he was tired and sleepy. New York, N.Y.

In the County Court trial, the other three cops, Sgt. John Pabst, patrolman Patrick Healy and Louis Wells, now a civilian, all gave conflicting testimony just as they did last summer. And the Negro eyewitnesses repeated with little variation the same stories. They were not called to testify before the Grand Jury that indicted Dessaure however. The obvious frame-up character of the charges was exposed by Faulkner when he pointed out that none of the DA's documents, two statements taken from Dessaure, the blotter, and a complaint card referred to the alleged precinct incident. Daily Worker

Assistant D. A. Frank Gulotta let the cat out of the bag though when he hinted to the jury that Dessaure was a part of some sinister plot against Nassau police.

JURORS SMILE

Mon 5-5-47

"There's a reason behind this case!," he souted. The jurors smiled when he hinted that Dessaure provoked trouble with the cops and got himself beaten up as a part of the plot. New York, N.Y.

"Did any cops ever grab you on the street?" he asked the all white jurors.

"No!" he answered himself. "They don't bother men like you."

Dessaure's chief counsel was assisted by Franklin H. Williams of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Raymond L. Harris of the American Jewish Congress. The NAACP went into the case because it was "convinced that Dessaure's civil liberties were violated." And of that there can hardly be any doubt. It's in the record.

Mon 5-5-47

Defer Action On Writ for Dessaure

Daily Worker

Special to the Daily Worker

MINEOLA, N. Y. May 6—Decision on a writ of habeas corpus for William J. Dessaure was today reserved until Thursday by Supreme Court Judge Charles C. Lockwood. After listening to defense attorney Stanley Faulkne's argument for the writ which would reverse a guilty verdict brought against him on Friday, Judge Lockwood gave the District Attorney until 5 p. m. tomorrow to file a contesting brief.

Wed. 5-7-47

Dessaure was indicted on four counts of assault against four Rockville Centre cops, but was convicted on only one. At the time of the incident June 8, he was himself brutally beaten. New York, N.Y.

Judge Denies Motion For Dessaure Mistrial

PM New York, N.Y.

After running into an almost unbroken series of defeats yesterday, defense attorneys for William J. Dessaure will begin presenting their case today in Nassau County Court. Fri. 5-2-47

The four-count assault indictment against the Negro lay preacher was voted by an all-white Grand Jury and an all-white jury is hearing the case. Dessaure was indicted as the result of a clash with police in Rockville Centre last June 8.

Yesterday Judge Ormonde T. Ritchie denied defense motions to:

¶ Declare a mistrial, asked on the ground that Assistant District Attorney Frank A. Gulotta by his questioning of Dessaure had exceeded the rules of evidence and created a prejudicial atmosphere.

¶ Dismiss the indictment, asked on the ground that the prosecution had failed to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

¶ Dismiss two counts of the indictment, asked on the ground that no prima facie case had been proved.

However, Judge Ritchie reserved decision until today on a defense motion to dismiss the two remaining counts on the ground that no supporting evidence had been given. 5-2-47

Dessaure Trial Bares Threats by Police

Daily Worker

Special to the Daily Worker Thurs 5-1-47

MINEOLA, L. I., April 30.—Two prosecution witnesses admitted under cross-examination here today in the trial of William J. Dessaure that the district attorney had suppressed sections of their statements which revealed that police had threatened Dessaure's life.

New York, N.Y.

Dessaure is accused of assaulting four policemen on June 8, 1946. He has maintained that he himself was the victim of a brutal beating after having reported the presence of a police sergeant, Joseph Garvey, in a gambling den. Daily Worker

Franklin H. Williams, Dessaure's assistant defense counsel, brought out the suppression in cross-examining Mrs. Katie Corbett and Hilton Howard, both Negroes who witnessed Dessaure's beating. Both testified they had heard policemen shout "Kill the black ----" outside of 15 Wellington Pl., Rockville Center.

Nassau County Assistant District Attorney Frank Gulotta tried to discredit his own witnesses. Mrs. Corbett testified that when she gave her original statement to detective James R. Hotter she had revealed the police threat. But in the statement Gulotta produced today it was absent. Thurs 5-1-47

Gulotta tried to force her to retract but failed. He also asked her about attending "meetings where Dessaure and his counsel Stanley Faulkner" had spoken, and if she belonged to "that league in Freeport." New York, N.Y.

Williams, who is representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, objected to this line of questioning, and was sustained by Judge D. Ormonde Ritchie. Today Williams cross-examined four other prosecution witnesses including Dr. Bruce P. Preas, police surgeon of Rockville Center.

Although Dessaure is accused of being intoxicated the night he was beaten by the cops, Dr. Preas, who dressed his wounds after the beating, did not remember smelling alcohol on his breath.

Under Williams' prodding he declared: Thurs 5-1-47

"A crack on his head would have produced a state of exhilaration similar to intoxication."

The trial will resume tomorrow morning.

All-White Jury Tries Dessaure

PM New York, N.Y.
Tues. 4-29-47

An all-white all-male jury was selected yesterday in Nassau County Court in Mineola, L. I., to try William J. Dessaure, Negro lay preacher, on four second-degree assault charges based on a clash with half a dozen policemen last June 8 in Rockville Centre.

Court closed for the day after Assistant District Attorney Frank A. Gulotta (17 minutes) and Defense Attorney Stanley Faulkner (13 minutes) made their opening addresses. Dessaure has another attorney, Franklin H. Williaims, assistant special counsel for the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People. Taking of testimony will begin at 10 a.m. today.

Judge Denies Motion To Dismiss Case

The jury was chosen from the first 18 men in the panel of 100. Williams asked each if he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan, and all the prospective jurymen denied it. Williams asked Judge Ormonde T. Ritchie to dismiss the indictment on the ground that the Grand Jury which voted it was unconstitutional in that it did not include Negroes, but Judge Ritchie denied the motion. PM New York, N.Y.

Dessaure says that it was the police who beat him, not the other way round. He says Acting Sergeant Joseph Garvey insulted his race and also beat him, and that Patrolman Arthur L'Hommedieu poked him in the stomach with his nightstick. In a police court hearing last August the policemen that Dessaure accused were exonerated.

Gulotta, in his opening address, said Dessaure knocked down L'Hommedieu—an ex-prizefighter—then grabbed his nightstick and started laying into four other policemen. Faulkner ridiculed the idea that one man would take on five cops all at once. He said he would prove the defense case by prosecution witnesses, and said eyewitnesses of the affair had been threatened by the police.

Dessaure has been and is free in $2000 bail. If convicted on all four counts he can get a maximum of 20 years. Tues. 4-29-47

There was not a single Negro in the panel of 100 men summoned for jury duty in the case. The 1940 census showed Nassau County had 406,700 residents, of whom 13,226—or 3 1-2 per cent—were Negroes.

Dessaure Case Goes To Nassau Jury

P.M. New York, N.Y.

An all-male, all-white, Nassau County jury was still debating its verdict Friday night after hours of deliberation on the assault indictment against William J. Dessaure, Negro lay preacher, as the result of a clash with Rockville Centre policemen last June 8.

The trial started Tuesday with selection of the jury, and the prosecution took two days to present its case. The defense evidence was presented by four eyewitnesses on Friday morning in an hour and 47 minutes. Summations followed.

Defense Stresses Contradictions

Sun. 5-4-47

Defense Attorney Stanley Faulkner, in his summation, stressed inconsistencies and contradictions in police testimony, especially that Sgt. Joseph Garvey had repudiated his own sworn statement that Dessaure had used a nightstick on a cop.

Faulkner emphasized that of the four defense witnesses, all of whom personally saw the clash on Wellington Place, not a single one was called to testify before the Grand Jury which indicted Dessaure.

Assistant District Attorney Frank Gulotta, in his summation, had nothing to say in defense of this failure to summon eyewitnesses before the Grand Jury.

Faulkner also said that Dessaure's alleged rampage in the Rockville Centre police station was dreamed up after his arrest to cover "a crime within a police station."

Gulotta skipped over the charges of discrepancies and contradictions in the police testimony, ignored points made by the defense, and based his summation on charges that Dessaure was a self-made martyr, that he was just looking or trouble, that he had a motive what this motive might be Gulot- didn't bother to say—and that e defense attorneys were trying make it a case of racial persecution.

The four defense witnesses, all f whom saw the clash on Wellington Place, all testified that the olice called Dessaure a "black — —," and that they saw the olice clubbing him. Two testified hey heard the police threaten vitnesses who protested the beating.

Cop Admits He Signed False Complaint Against Dessaure

PM Wed 4-30-47

~~New York, N.Y.~~

By Arnold Blom and James Parlatore

Acting Police Sgt. Joseph Garvey of Nassau County admitted on oath yesterday that he signed a complaint without reading it, that it named a defendant he didn't know, and that it charged the defendant with a crime he did not commit.

PM

This was in the case of William J. Dessaure, Negro lay preacher, who is on trial before an all-white jury on assault charges resulting from a clash with half a dozen white policeman in Rockville Center. If convicted Dessaure can get up to 20 years.

Wed 4-30-47

Garvey spent most of an unhappy day on the stand. Only three witnesses were called by the prosecution and all suffered from faulty memories and testified to contradictions which the defense happily exploited.

New York, N.Y.

The basic issue was the affair last June 8 at Wellington Pl. and Old Mill Rd., where Dessaure had accompanied some policemen in search of a gambling game and of Garvey, who he says had beaten and insulted him outside. Garvey was later exonerated by an all-white jury.

PM

The complaint signed by Garvey said that Dessaure hit Patrolman Arthur L'Hommedieu with the latter's own nightstick.

Yesterday Garvey admitted under oath that he didn't see Dessaure hit anyone with a nightstick.

Wed 4-30-47

"Do you remember making written complaint against this defendant, that he hit Patrolman L'Hommedieu with a nightstick?" asked defense attorney Stanley Faulkner sarcastically.

Garvey, reddening, said he didn't remember.

New York N.Y.

So Faulkner showed Garvey the latter's own complaint; and thereupon Garvey's memory improved.

"Do you want to change your testimony now?" asked Faulkner. Garvey said yes.

"Did the defendant use the nightstick on Patrolman L'Hommedieu?"

"No," said Garvey, thus denying his own complaint.

"Then this complaint is not correct?" asked Faulkner.

"That's right," Garvey admitted.

"Then why," asked Kaulkner, "did you sign a complaint that wasn't true?"

Wed 4-30-4

"I didn't even read it," said Garvey. "I was tired, I'd worked 17 hours that day."

"Then," said Faulkner, "you admit signing this complaint without knowing the defendant named in it?"

After thinking awhile, Garvey said yes.

Dessaure Says Cops 'Edited' His Statement

PM New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 5-1-47

William Dessaure, Negro lay preacher, testified in Nassau County Court yesterday that the police had tampered with or at least "edited" statements made not only by Dessaure but also by a prosecution witness.

The day's hearings in the trial of Dessaure on an assault charge demonstrated a remarkable coincidence: the police had extremely hazy memories of what happened at Wellington Pl. and Old Mill Rd., where Dessaure was arrested; but all remembered vividly what happened in the station house a few minutes later. There were witnesses at Wellington Pl. There were none at the station house.

Mrs. Katie Corbett, in front of whose Wellington Pl. house the incident occurred, said she saw Dessaure on the ground and heard a cop say "Kill that black son of a ——." Some three hours later, she testified, she gave a full account to Detective James R. Hotter, and included that phrase; but it did not appear in the statement submitted by Assistant District Attorney Frank A. Gulotta.

Hilton Howard, who was in Mrs. Corbett's house at the time, also testified he heard the phrase. Niether of these two eyewitnesses was called before the Grand Jury which indicted Dessaure.

Dessaure testified that he made a nine-page statement to Hotter, which was taken down in longhand by another detective named Tuttle; that the two detectives left him for awhile and then brought back a six-page statement, which he signed although the detectives refused to let him read it.

Dessaure Gets 1½ Yrs.; Files Appeals Notice

PM New York, N.Y.

William J. Dessaure, Negro lay preacher, yesterday was sentenced to 1½ to 3 years in prison by Nassau County Judge D. Ormonde Ritchie.

Sun. 5-18-47

Stanley Faulkner, Dessaure's attorney, filed notice of appeal and asked for a certificate of reasonable doubt allowing Dessaure to be released on bail. Dessaure was convicted two weeks ago of second degree assault in connection with a clash last June 8 with the Rockville Centre police.

Police Injustice Exposed At Trial

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

MINEOLA, L. I.—(SNS)—Amid a welter of confused and contradictory police testimony, the trial of William J. Dessaure, Negro lay preacher, is bringing to light a rare example of police "justice." Before an all-white jury here, the story is unfolding how Dessaure reported the presence of Acting Police Sergeant Joseph Garvey of Nassau County in a gambling game at Willington Pl. and Old Mill Rd., Rockeville Centre, how Dessaure was beaten by five policemen and then charged with assault by Garvey.

Sun. 5-11-47

The tale begins last June when Dessaure charged that, after he had reported the presence of Garvey in the Wellington Place gambling house, Garvey insulted his race and beat him, and that Patrolman Arthur L'Hommedieu poked him in the stomach with his night stick. At a police court hearing last August the policemen were exonerated. Garvey then signed and swore to a complaint charging Dessaure with assaulting four Rockeville Centre policemen. An all-white Grand Jury indicted Dessaure and his trial began yesterday before another all-white jury—picked from a panel of 100 men summoned for jury duty, of which none was a Negro, although Negroes form 3½ per cent of the Nassau County population.

Dessaure is defended by Stanley Faulkner, who is assisted by Franklin H. Williams of the NAACP and Raymond Harris, official observer of the American Jewish Congress. Assistant District Attorney Frank Gulotta in his opening address yesterday said Dessaure knocked down L'Hommedieu—an ex-prize fighter—and then grabbed his nightstick and started laying into four other policemen. Faulkner ridiculed the idea that one man would take on five cops at once. He said he would prove the defense case by the prosecution witnesses.

ADMITS IGNORANCE

Sun. 5-11-47

Faulkner made good his claim today when he succeeded in wresting from Garvey an admission that he signed the complaint against Dessaure without reading it, that it named a defendant he didn't know and that it charged the defendant with a crime he did not commit. Flushed and unhappy on the witness stand, Garvey admitted under oath that he didn't see Dessaure hit anyone with a nightstick. He said at first he didn't remember signing a complaint, but when Faulkner showed it to him, he agreed to change his testimony. He confessed the complaint was not correct and when he was asked why he had signed it, he said, "I didn't even read it. I was tired. I'd worked seventeen hours that day."

"Then," said Faulkner, "you admit signing this complaint without knowing the defendant named in it?" After thinking awhile, Garvey said yes.

Daily World

The prosecution called only two other witnesses today and all suffered from faulty memories and testified to contradictions upon which Mr. Williams happily seized. Dessaure is being tried on four second-degree assault charges. If convicted, he can get up to twenty years.

14e 1947 Ohio

The Leading White Witness Brutally Beaten!

14e

The Union Cincinnati, Ohio

Thurs. 7-3-47

Why? Everybody Knows!

Recently, the daily press and the "little Union," have told the beastly brutal story, of how two Policemen, here one night, beat most severely, an elderly colored man, employed in a Walnut Hills bowling alley for sixteen years. Such brutality in itself, is not so unusual, but in this case, the remarkable feature was, two white men witnesses, volunteered to appear in Court against the guilty policemen, despite the advice given them, to "KEEP OUT OF IT, YOU KNOW NOTHING, HAVE SEEN NOTHING!"

The case was called, these two white men were present. The case was continued then and since then, in an effort to get rid of these important witnesses. Last Tuesday, was set for a hearing. Monday night, as Mr. 'Gene La Rue, one of those white witnesses, started to walk across the bridge to his home in Covington, Ky., an auto drove up and its three men invited him to let them take him over. He declined, AND THAT SAVED HIS LIFE! When he reached his residence, then men were WAITING! HE WAS BADLY BEATEN UP, NOSE, EYES AND JAWS SMASHED AND HE WAS LEFT UNCONSCIOUS IN THE YARD. Of course he could not appear anywhere the next day and so Atty. Harry S. Williams, had the case continued to the 10th of July.

THE SADDEST AND MOST DEPLORABLE FEATURE OF THE ASSAULT WAS, THAT THE VICTIM, MR. LaRUE, HAS ONLY ONE ARM, SO COULD NOT DEFEND HIMSELF! Thurs. 7-3-47

MR. LaRUE AND HIS FRIEND, DESERVE A MONUMENT FOR THEIR HEROISM AND STAND FOR A POOR OLD COLORED MAN, A VICTIM OF SUCH SAVAGERY, EVEN IN THE STATE OF OHIO! Our colored lawyer, ATTY. HARRY WILLIAMS, IS SERVING FREE OF CHARGE, FOR HE DOES NOT WANT THOSE TWO WHITE MEN, TO OUT-DO HIM, IN RACIAL GENEROSITY AND ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED HEROISM, FOR A HUMBLE COLORED CITIZEN!

Police Whitewashed In Ohio Posse Probe

14e

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Sat. 3-15-47

CINCINNATI, Ohio.—A casual remark by a police officer in Cincinnati, Ohio, was responsible for assembling a posse of 75 to 100 men in that town to hunt down a suspect in an attempted rape case, City Manager Wilbur R. Kellogg said, but his report on the incident to the city council completely exonerated the city administration.

The report, requested by the Cincinnati branch NAACP, said a Madisonville home had been burglarized and a 45-year-old wife criminally attacked. Shortly afterwards, another home in the neighborhood was robbed by a Negro answering to the same description. A group of armed men, numbering 75 to 100, gathered at the scene to join the manhunt.

But other factors were unearthed by investigation made by Ernest J. Waits of the Committee on Democratic Action, Harold J. Pierson of the West End Civic League, Arnold B. Walker of the Division of Negro Welfare, and Harold D. Snell of the Cincinnati branch NAACP. This group interviewed the manager of radio station WCPO over which a call for armed volunteers was broadcast. The manager said the call had gone out over WCPO in response to a request from Lieutenant Conner of the Sixth District.

Police Version

The group talked to City Manager Kellogg who gave them the police version of the affair. The police say that a radio newscaster asked Lieutenant Conner whether help was needed and Lt. Conner said it was. Mr. Kellogg refused to issue a public statement to the effect that the police had not requested civilian help and would not to tolerate it in the future. He said such a statement would most likely result in a riot against Negroes. Sat. 3-15-47

The city council, which requested the city manager to report on the situation after receiving a letter from the Cincinnati branch NAACP, had no comment to make on the report.

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14 Year Old Youth Shot By Trigger-Happy Rookie Cop

(14e) Ohio News.

state news

TOLEDO.—Because of the trigger-nervousness of a rookie police officer and his own mistake of running into the line of fire between the officer and a suspected purse snatcher, 14-year-old James Wakefield of 739 Norwood av., was rushed to Mercy hospital, after being shot and seriously wounded Wednesday night, by patrolman Albert Fadell. The boy was placed in an oxygen tent and given two plasma transfusions.

Patrolman Fadell and his partner, Patrolman Kenneth Lemke, both of whom are newcomers to the police force, having joined last February, were cruising in the community and had stopped their car at Norwood av. and Ewing st., to question a man they saw standing on the corner. The man ran as they left the car. Patrolman Lemke fired into the air and gave chase, while Fadell turned the corner and ran up Norwood av. in an effort to head off the fugitive. Columbus, Ohio

The Wakefield boy, who was talking in front of his home with James Glover, age 15 of 807 Norwood av., became frightened at the sound of Patrolman Lemke's shot and jumped off his bicycle and ran across the street. Seeing his running figure and assuming that he was the suspect being chased by his partner, Fadell said that he shouted at him to halt and fired when the boy ran up a rise of ground in a vacant lot next to 736 Norwood av., where the shot felled the boy. The officer said he intended to fire over the head of his target, but misjudged because the boy was on higher ground. Columbus Ohio,

It was reported that it has been the custom of the police division to pair a rookie with a veteran, but Patrolman Robert Murphy, a nine year veteran and former partner of Fadell's, was recently transferred to the day shift to enable him to attend night classes at the University of Toledo.

Charge Police With Abuses

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 6-21-47 (14e)

CHESTER, Pa.—(ANP)—Mayor Ralph F. Swarts of Chester told a delegation of Negroes last week that he would order an immediate and thorough investigation of charges it presented against the police department.

The delegation, headed by the Rev. J. Pius Barbour, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, appeared before the city council with a petition bearing seventy-five names.

The petition, read by the Rev. Mr. Barbour, stated.

"On a number of occasions, decent women have been insulted by abusive language by policemen for no apparent reason.

"The community is stirred with indignation by the constant reports of beatings administered to prisoners after their arrest.

"Some officers are overbearing and when such arrogance is resented, the person resenting such is assulted and then accused of resisting arrest to cover up for the officers." Sat. 6-21-47

The petition concluded with the observation, "Such matters require factual evidence, but the average person does not care to make himself a target for reprisals."

Orders Thorough Probe Of Chester, Pa. Cops

(14e) Defender

Chicago, Ill.

CHESTER, Pa.—(ANP)—Mayor Ralph F. Swarts of Chester told a delegation of Negroes last week that he would order an immediate and thorough investigation of charges it presented against the police department. 6-21-47

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The petition, read by Rev. Barbour, stated: Sat.

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"The community is stirred with indignation by the constant reports of beatings administered to prisoners after their arrest.

"Some officers are overbearing and when such arrogance is resented, the person resenting such is assaulted and then accused of resisting arrest to cover up for the officers." Chicago, Ill.

The petition concluded with the observation, "Such matters require factual evidence, but the average person does not care to make himself a target for reprisals."

Mayor Swarts said he would confer with the minister on the matter. 6-21-46

4 Negro Victims Of Beating Spree

Black 14e Dispatch

Okla. City, Okla. Sat. 8-30-47

JEFFERSON, S. C. (ANP) —Four Negroes were brutally beaten here recently by a white mob, three of the men "for no obvious reason." Names of all are being withheld to avoid further reprisals by members of the mob.

The trouble started Saturday, June 7, with the attacking of one of the four by a white man allegedly employed by a local magistrate. The attacker used a tire tool in his assault on the young man who picked up a stone and struck his assailant in his defense. The young man fled, but was arrested later, finally landing in the county jail at Chesterfield, reportedly ahead of a pursuing group.

The boy's father and uncle went to the town jail to learn the charges against the youth. The father was beset by the mob, held at gun point and savagely beaten. Satisfied with the punishment, mirthfully the group ordered him to crawl on hand and knees, with blood dripping from several wounds, 200 yards to the town's limit. The mob returned and seized his brother, beat him, and ordered him out of town.

Later, the son of another man was met on the Pageland highway by the magistrate, according to reports, and was beaten by the jurist "for no obvious reason."

The father of the imprisoned youth said that the magistrate came to his home following the street melee between his son and the magistrate's alleged employe, brandishing a gun and cursing him.

Sat. 8-30-47

Several persons admitted seeing the Chesterfield county deputy sheriff, as well as the town's acting chief of police, near the scene of the beatings of the boy's father and uncle, but the two made no effort to interfere. Both white and colored citizens have denounced the affair, but none of them would consent for their names to be made public.

Since the beating, Negro shoppers who had customarily gone to the small Jefferson community, are now making longer trips to other towns in the county to avoid trouble.

Appeal for Eyewitnesses

14e S.C. Press Service for the NAACP 3-14-47

New York, Mar 13th--NAACP attorneys, who recently instituted a civil suit for damages in behalf of Isaac Woodard, Negro veteran victim of South Carolina storm trooper, announced today that although the first appeal for eyewitnesses to the brutal beating and blinding of Woodard had produced three men, their case would be considerably bolstered if other eyewitnesses would volunteer to testify. All correspondence should be addressed to the NAACP Legal Department at 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y. New York, N.Y. 3-14-47

Woodard Wins First Round In $50,000 Bus Suit

Journal + Guide Norfolk, Va.

14e S.C. Sat. 6-7-47

By Associated Negro Press

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—The first round in a $50,000 suit against the Atlantic Greyhound Corporation was won here last week by Isaac Woodard Jr., New York war veteran who was blinded by police in Batesburg, S. C.

The bus company's plea that Woodard's suit against it was not valid was overruled by Circuit Judge Julian F. Bouchelle. He continued the case until September when the defense asked additional time to take desposition in other states.

The blind veteran, who contends he lost his sight by a beating administered by Batesburg's police chief, is suing on the contention that a Greyhound bus driver first ordered him off a bus and then caused him to be arrested in the South Carolina town on Feb. 12, 1946. 14e S.C.

He subsequently suffered the loss of both eyes when he was attacked by the Batesburg police, Woodard said. The bus company's contention that Woodard failed to establish a valid ground for his suit, in that he failed to allege any specific act of negligence by the company or its driver, and failed to identify the drives, was overruled by Judge Bouchelle.

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World Thurs. 3-13-47

14e S.C.

Thurs. 3-13-47

NEW START IN LIFE awaits southern trooper-victim Isaac Woodward as he boards train for Avon School for the Blind in Connecticut. Woodard, whose eyes were gouged out by a Negro-hating police chief in Batesburg, S. C., a few hours after he'd stepped ashore from an army transport, had given his country three years in its defense, two of them in the South Pacific jungle. Yet, the southern cop who took away his eyesight was acquitted by an American jury in less than half an hour. The NAACP has provided him with a $10,000 trust fund. The dramatic photo above marks the final chapter in the shameful story as the blinded veteran leaves New York to receive training which shall help him live a useful life. From left to right in the picture are Franklin Williams, NAACP attorney; Woodard; Cecil Forster, Veterans' Administration official; Mrs. Isaac Woodard.—(NAACP photo.)

Cleric Who Backed S. C. Police Chief Stripped of Post

Afro-American Baltimore, Md. 14e

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ANP)—CME Church officials finally won the long fight to have the Rev. Archie Beechem of Batesburg removed as presiding elder, it has been disclosed. His removal had been sought since last November, when he testified for Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull, who was on trial for blinding Isaac Woodward, ex-GI.

He created quite a sensation when he testified as to the police chief's good character, despite the fact that his stepson had been jailed and mistreated by the official. CME churchmen petitioned Bishop C. L. Russell to remove the Rev. Mr. Beechem. Currently he is without assignment.

Woodard Loses $50,000 Suit

Daily World 14e Atlanta, Ga. S.C.

CHARLESTOWN, W. Va.—(SNS)—Isaac Woodard Jr., 28-year-old veteran who said a Batesburg, S. C police officer blinded him, lost a $50,000 suit against the Atlantic Grey hound Corp, Thursday, when a Circuit court jury returned a verdict in favor of the bus company.

The jury was composed of one Negro and 11 white men. It deliberated for four hours before reaching a verdict. Sun 11-16-47

The suit was placed against the bus company when Woodard claimed that the bus driver in pointing out to police who beat him, picked out the wrong man who had allegedly been creating disturbance on the bus.

Greyhound Bus Co. Is Sued by Isaac Woodard

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

14e S.C. Sat. 2-15-47

NEW YORK—The fight to avenge Isaac Woodard, blinded in a brutal attack by a South Carolina police chief, who was later exonerated, flared anew in West Virginia this week when the Atlantic Greyhound Bus Company was sued for the alleged illegal eviction of the former war veteran.

The suit was filed by T. G. Nutter, West Virginia attorney, for the NAACP, in Charleston, where the main office of the bus company is located. It charged the Greyhound lines with the responsibility of Woodard's injury after he was put off the bus.

TRIED TO REPLACE EYES

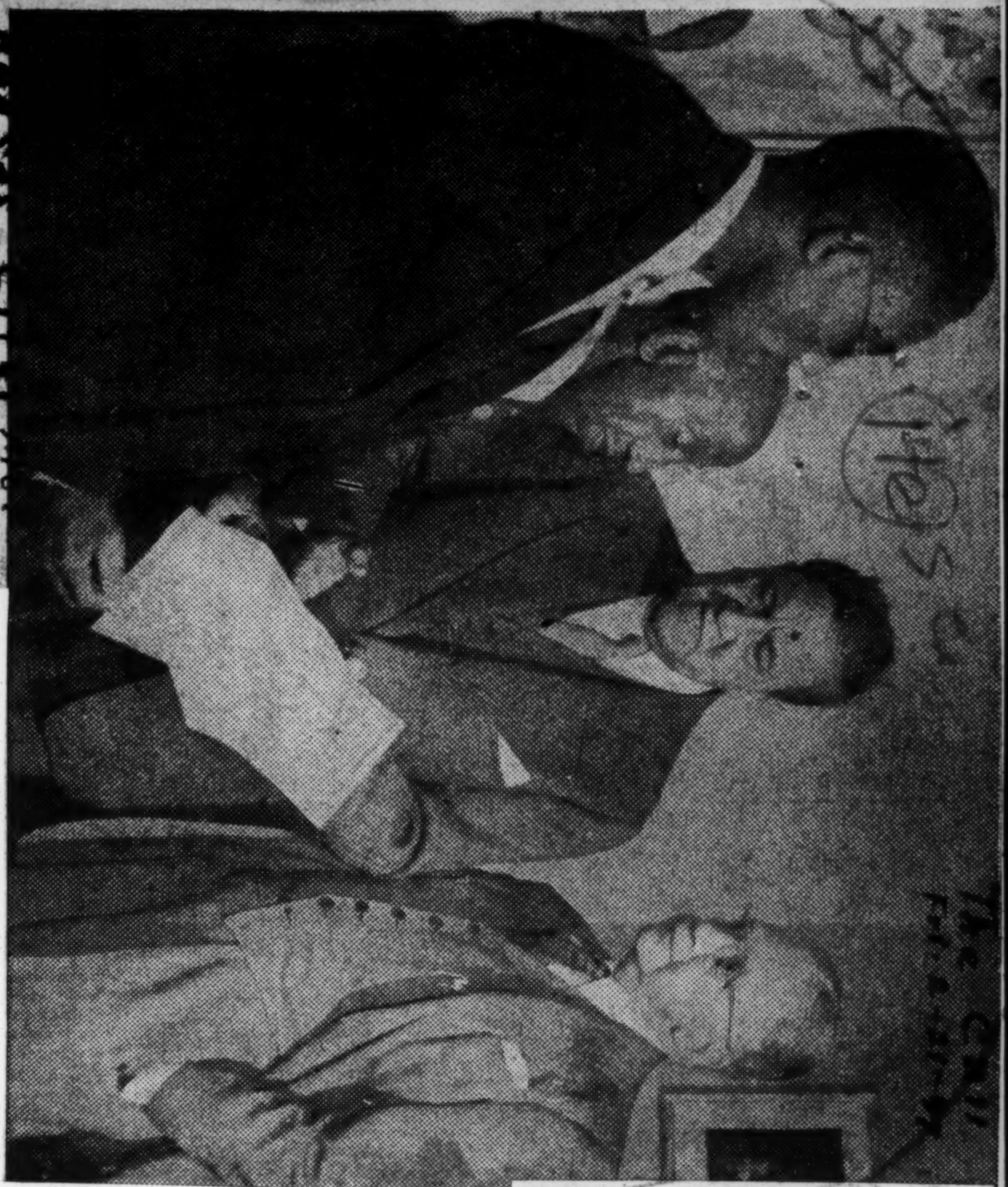
The Woodard case bounced back into the national spotlight recently when, through the efforts of The Pittsburgh Courier, William H. Copeland, a condemned prisoner in Washington, D. C., offered to give his own eyes so that Woodard might see again. 2-15-47

After exhaustive examination, however, eye specialists declared that Woodard's eyes had been so badly damaged that he would never see again. 14e S.C.

In pushing their case against the bus company, the NAACP will contend that because Woodard was evicted from the Atlantic Greyhound bus and turned over to Batesburg (S. C.) Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull, Isaac was assaulted so brutally that he was permanently blinded. They will also attempt to prove that the bus company had no valid cause or reason to eject Woodard. Sat. 2-15-47

The arrest was made on the bus driver's charge that Woodard had been rowdy, profane and intoxicated. This is the contention that the NAACP will attempt to disprove.

The attack on Woodard occurred four hours after his discharge from the Army, while riding on a bus from Augusta, Ga., bound for Winnsboro, S. C.



The Call
Fri. 2-21-47

14e

ISAAC WOODARD GETS $10,000 ANNUITY.

Isaac Woodard, the 27-year-old veteran whose eyes were sadistically gouged out by L. M. Shull, Batesburg, S. C. Police Chief only a few hours after his return from a three-year stretch in the South Pacific, receives his $10,000 annuity from Dr. Channing H. Tobias, N.A.A.C.P. board member. The annuity, which will guarantee the blinded veteran a monthly stipend for the rest of his life, came from gifts which poured into the N.A.A.C.P.'s Isaac Woodard fund from outraged citizens, both black and white, in every part of the nation. Dr. Tobias in making the presentatiton said, "This small gift from the members of the N.A.A.C.P. and decent citizens of our country is only a token of their gratitude which, they know only too well, can never make up for what you have suffered." In the photo, from left to right, are: Isaac Woodard Jr., his father, Isaac Woodard Sr., Dr. Channing Tobias, Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. executive secretary.

Negro Loses $50,000 Bus Suit

The [illegible] Times

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Nov. 13 (AP) — Isaac Woodrad Jr., 28-year-old Negro veteran, who said he was blinded by South Carolina police officers after they had removed him from a bus, lost his $50,000 damage suit against the Atlantic Greyhound Corporation today. A Circuit Court jury of one Negro and eleven white men ruled for the bus company after six hours of deliberation which began yesterday afternoon. 11-14-47

New York, N.Y.

Press Release, Nov 7 -3-

14e

ISAAC WOODARD ASKS
$50,000 FOR HIS EYES

November 7, 1947

Press service of the N.A.A.C.P. New York, N.Y.

Charleston, W.Va., Nov. 4--Isaac Woodard, Negro veteran whose brutal blinding by Lynwood Shull, Batesburg, S.C. police chief shocke the nation in 1946, will appear in the Kanawha County Court here on Nov. 10th with attorneys furnished by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in an attempt to recover $50,000 in damages from the Atlantic Greyhound Corporation, operators of the bus from which Woodard was dragged a few moments before his brutal beating and maiming.

New York, N.Y.

Fri. 11-7-47

Accordings to briefs filed by NAACP attorneys T. G. Nutter and Franklin H. Williams in behalf of Mr. Woodard, the shocking incident developed after Woodard, a newly discharged veteran of 18 months in the South Pacific, objected to being cursed by the driver of the bus, whereupon the angered driver stopped the bus to call police in Batesburg. Woodard was dragged from the bus, beaten into semi-consciousness and both his eyes gouged out by the police chief.

In commenting upon this case, Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the Association, stated that, "The maiming of Isaac Woodard was one of the most brutal, inhuman and atrocious acts that has ever been committed against an American citizen to my knowledge by an officer of the law. The Association is determined to in some manner attempt to compensate Mr. Woodard for having to spend the rest of his days in darkness because of the act of a vicious individual as a direct result of having been ejected by the driver of the Greyhound bus. We have established a $10,000 trust fund for Mr. Woodard, and are determined by this suit to prevent common carriers in the South from ejecting Negro passengers without any justification and without regard for their rights as interstate travelers."

14e S.C.

New Republic

THE LAST STANZA

Isaac Woodard. Woody Guthrie, the singer, wrote a ballad about Isaac Woodard, the 28-year-old Negro who was beaten blind by South Carolina policemen on the day he ended four years' service as a soldier in World War II. The song tells the facts as they happened: New York, N.Y.

On February 12, 1946, young Woodard became a civilian and boarded a bus headed for Batesburg, South Carolina, where he was to meet his wife. At the first stop he asked the driver if there was time enough to go to a restroom. The driver cursed Woodard, who cursed him back. When the bus reached Batesburg, the driver, Alton Blackwell, called the police.

Blackwell justified the savage beating that followed by saying Woodard had been drunk and profane. The bus passengers testified that Woodard had been sober and orderly.

Last week Woody Guthrie could write a new stanza for his ballad. A West Virginia jury dismissed the sightless veteran's $50,000 damage suit against the Atlantic Greyhound Corporation. 11-24-47

14e 1947

Tennessee

Memphis Police Deny Beating Expectant Mother

(14e) Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (SNS) — Police denial of the brutal beating last Sunday afternoon of an expectant woman was refuted earlier this week by the testimony of numerous witnesses and relatives of the injured woman.,

Mrs. Adelaide Hudson, 23, 373-C Wellington, was in John Gaston Hospital early Monday morning, reportedly suffering from a fractured rib and a threatened miscarriage. The young woman sustained her injuries, according to eye-witnesses when one of the police officers, Patrolman W. L. Williams, "cursed and beat her" because she said 'yes' to him two times.

8/9/47

There were five persons in the Foote Homes apartment Sunday afternoon when the police came to investigate a complaint that Fred Isom, 15, a nephew of Mrs. Hudson, had shot his B-B gun and struck the 6-year old daughter of Mrs. Willie Mae Smith, 401-F Wellington, in the back with one of the pellets.

Atlanta Daily World

The skin on the child's back was broken, but Mrs. Smith stating that she was afraid lest her child be blinded by the indiscriminate shooting of such a dangerous toy, called the police to find the gun and confiscate it. She said she told the officers that she did not desire the arrest of the boy . . that she only wanted them to take the gun. She said she had tried to learn the boy's identity, but that no one would tell her. However she did learn that he probably lived at Mrs. Hudson's address. About a half hour after she called the Police Department officers arrived and she directed them to the suspected apartment.

OFFICER ANGERED Cat. 1

When the patrolmen arrived at the Hudson apartment, according to the persons present at the time, they walked in without knocking. Those present included Mrs. Hudson's sister, Miss Johnnie Mae Walls, Jno. D. Jackson, 25, L. S. Fraiklin, 22, and Warren Franklin, 24.

According to these witnesses, the officers came into the residence and said "Good evening." They found Mrs. Hudson lying on a couch, briefly dressed. She was asked if the boy Roosevelt Isom lived there, she said, "Yes." The officer then asked her if the boy had an air-rifle. She again answered "yes."

The officer first showed resentment. He allegedly said , "I don't know where in the----you come from, but you are in Tennessee now . . . N-----s should know how to talk to white people."

At this juncture the other officer is reported to have remarked, 'Yes, she must be one of them smart b------es" from up North.!

Then the first officer, identified as Williams. by the witnesses, drew back his hand to strike the woman Witnesses said he threatened to strike the woman three times. Twice with the butt of the b-b gun. Finally he allegedly told her to put her clothes on, that she was under arrest.

The woman arose and started upstairs in the four-room apartment She is said to have remarked, "Well I'll just declare." The officers, who had started out of the apartment, halted, one of them turned back and entered the apartment. Then, he started beating the woman.

Witnesses said he struck her in the stomach with all his might, repeatedly. One of the colored men present, said he walked up to the other officer and told him that the woman was pregnant. He said this officer tried to approach the incensed officer. He continued to beat the woman. He dragged her out of the apartment. She was barefooted. She had on only her halter and a pair of shorts. Witnesses said the officer stopped the woman under a tree just in front of her apartment, and in the presence of dozens of persons attracted by the situation. They said he beat her for approximately 10 minutes. Then he and his fellow officer took her by the arm and carried her to the squad car. They said, women witnesses of the scene cried out in horror at what was happening, and begged the officer to stop beating the expectant mother. They say he was apparently so incensed over her failure to say "yes, sir" to him, that he didn't hear or disregard their pleas. The last they saw of the situation was the woman's being placed in the squad car and the policeman beating her.

Atlanta Da. Wld. 8/9/47

Mrs. Hudson was later taken to John Gaston Hospital. Her sister said she was told that the young woman had a fractured rib, caused by being jabbed in the side with the end of the b-b gun, and was threatening a miscarriage.

The sister reported that she and none of those present attempted to argue or remonstrate with the officers. She said her sister never said another word after the officers started abusing her. She said her sister did not attempt to resist the beating being administered.

Dozens of witnesses of the beating phase which occurred in the central court of the apartments said that the woman did not resist and that one officer was beating her brutally while the other held her up.

14e 1947

Texas

Woman Claims She Is Brutally Beaten While Under Arrest

The Informer Houston, Texas

Sat. 7-19-47

HOUSTON — Charged with disturbing the peace Ernestine McBride, a maid at a private residence on Telephone Road, was arrested Monday night, July 14. She was taken from a Nance Bus on the corner of Congress and Fannin by two patrolmen, after being pointed out by Johnnie Rizzo, owner of a Grocery Store at 2617 Nance where the woman earlier boarded the bus She was carried to a North Side $25 one of the desk sergeants police station where she was fined said. Limping into the newsrooms of the Informer newspapers early Tuesday morning, with blood dripping from a bandage on her right leg, the maid told a reporter that she had been slapped and beaten by one of the officers who made the arrest.

STRUCK ON LEG

She said that she had been taken from the bus without protest by one of the officers who slapped her and booted her into the patrol or squad car. After of the car, the officer beat her she fell on the floor in the back on the legs with what she took to be a stick, inflictng the leg wound the woman said. Sat. 7-19-47

The grocer was not home Wednesday, but his wife, Mrs. Johnnie Rizzo, said over the telephone the officers had been called after her husband had been cursed and called racial epithets by Ernestine McBride, because he objected to her making improper use of the walk alongside of his store. The groceryman's wife said that there are two rest rooms in the store buildng for the purpose, one for Negroes and the other for Mexicans, and they have a lot of trouble keeping people from using the sidewalks.

She said that when her husband threatened to call the officers, the maid dared him to do so. He called the officers, thinking that the woman would be gone when they arrived. She had gone but the officers decided to overtake the bus, Mrs. Rizzo said. Mr. Rizzo went along in his car to make the identification and file the charge.

MAID APPARENTLY A Sore Woman

When she came into the Informer newsroom Tuesday, Ernestine McBride was apparently a sore woman. Besides the wound on her leg, she had some abrasion on her forehead and arms. She claimed that she was asked questions by the arresting officer and before she could answer, one of the officers would slap her across the eyes.

"He wouldn't let me walk off the bus, he just pushed and shoved me off and slapped me across the eyes when I got on the ground," the woman winked bloodshot eyes at the reporter.

Remainng in the North Side Jaill from 8:40 p. m., when according to the sergeant in charge she was brought in by the two arresting officers, she was released about 11 p. m., when her employer sent the $25 to pay the fine by a white man employed at the same address. Sat. 7-19-47

Sgt. J. B. Elkins who was in charge at the time the woman was brought in said Tuesday, he didn't notice the woman being wounded when she was brought into the station. "She appeared drunk and was very belligerent. I did not get close enough to her to smell alcohol, because I hate to smell it, he said.

The white woman employer, who asked that her name be withheld, said Tuesday that she got a call from a witnss of the incident who told her that the woman had been beaten and was in jail. She said she sent the $25 to the North Side station by one of the men employed in her husband's business, after learning that the woman was being held on a charge of disturbing the peace and what the fine would be. When she saw her maid, whom she referrd to as "a good woman and peaceful," she was thunderstruck, she said "I just couldn't understand it." "Ernestine definitely does not drink."

When the maid arrived home where she lives with her employer in a servants' room, her leg was bleeding and she had some knots and bruises in her face, her employer said.

DENIES IMPROPER USE OF SIDEWALK

The maid told the reporter she had gone into the neighborhood store, operated by Johnny Rizzo, and had made a small purchase. She went outside to await the Nance but going toward town when she discovered a garment unfastened. She got into the shadows close to the store and was in the act of fastening it when the grocer called to her not to make use of the sidewalk. She told him that she was not doing so and he insisted that she was, and told her he was going to call the officers. She says she told him to go ahead and call the officers, Meanwhile the bus came and she boarded it for town. She had forgotten the incident by the time the bus reached Congress and Fannin where the officer boarded the bus and took her off, she said. Sat. 7-19-47

The case against Ernestine McBride will be tried in Corporaion Court July 26.

Officer Is Suspended For Beating Prisoner

Saturday 8-9-47

The Informer. Houston, Texas.

HOUSTON—Patrolman D. E. Brumfield, 41, was suspended indefintely Tuesday, August 5 for beating a 22-year-old Negro after arresting him Monday night. So far as is known, this was a record-setting gesture of fairplay as pertaining to Negroes who become victims of police brutality in the city, and a precedence in that the officer was punished by Chief Payne without 'help' from complaining committees and aroused public indignation.

The chief suspended the officer less than a day after 22-year-old Samuel Williams of 746 West Twenty second street reported that he had been severely booted by the officer. Williams had been arrested by the officer who was off duty for shooting a dog that snapped at his baby boy at his residence. It later developed that the dog belonged to Brumfield who, ironically, is a neighbor of Williams in the next block at 720 West Twenty-first.

In a written statement Williams said Brumfield hit him after arresting him as he was being walked by the officer toward the patrol car. He said he was struck from behind and knocked to the ground, and was kicked as he got out of the patrol car at the police station and again in the elevator at the station.

Laments Dog's Injury

Brumfield admitted he hit Williams with his pistol, and said he did it after Williams struck at him. He lamented the shooting of his dog, "He was a good squirrel dog, but he'll never be a good dog again," he complained. Officers say the dog has its right leg broken by the charge from the 12 guage shot gun used by Williams. Sat. 8-9-47

Williams was charged Monday with "shooting a dog with intent to injure the owner", and had been kept in jail all night. Tuesday at noon he was sent to the Jefferson Davis hospital. Four stitches were taken in a cut in his head and his chest was X-rayed to see if he had injuries there.

Brumfield's Second Time

It is the second time Brumfield has been suspended for abusing a prisoner during the few years he has been on the force, officers said. He began work as an officer in October 6, 1942 and was suspended indefinitely September 9, 1944. He was reinstated almost two years later on March 18, 1946.

Inspector W. P. Haley took statements from various witnesses including Patrolmen L. O. Ballard and J. E. Wilburn.

Commenting on the 'surprise' action taken by Chief Payne, several citizens Tuesday recalled other reported cases of abuse of prisoners by officers that were whitewashed in disrgard of any of the forces such as cross-section groups, civic groups, church groups and other organizations petitioning the mayor, the police chief and even the district attorney in some instances.

Cop Suspended For Brutality to Negroes

Daily Worker

HOUSTON, Texas — A Houston policeman, D. E. Brumfield, has been suspended indefinitely as a result of a second case in which he brutally beat a Negro whom he was arresting.

New York, N.Y.

Samuel Williams, the citizen who was beaten, had shot a dog on his block for snapping at his baby son. Patrolman Brumfield, who owned the dog, came to arrest Williams, struck him from behind as he went to the police car, kicked him repeatedly at the station and otherwise abused him.

Williams had to be taken to the hospital for four stitches in his head and X-rays of his chest to determine whether there were internal injuries. Mon. 8-25-47

The suspension of Brumfield comes about because the Negro community of Houston have been actively protesting repeated instances of police brutality. However, the entire community must be aroused to secure the discharge of such policemen and an end to the terrorization of Negro citizens.

Justice Wins for Negro--Almost

The Worker - N.Y.

Sun. 8-24-47

HOUSTON, Tex.—Sam Williams shot a dog belonging to D. E. Brumfield after the dog had molested his small daughter.

This might have closed the incident except that Williams is a Negro truck driver and Brumfield is a police officer who had been indicted in 1944 for the murder of a white prisoner in his custody.

That time he was merely suspended until March of this year, while the murder charge was dismissed for lack of evidence.

Brumfield accused Williams of willfully killing his dog. Williams attempted to explain. Brumfield, enraged, beat Williams with his gun butt, and arrested him for attempted assault on a police officer. The Negro was sent to the hospital where four stitches were taken in his scalp.

Sun. 8-24-47

The NAACP, led by Mrs. Lula White, led a delegation to the City Council of Houston demanding the discharge and arrest of the white police officer. The Council heard the delegation and a statement deploring the incident, referring the discharge of Brumfield from the police force to Chief of Police Payne.

Payne placed Brumfield under suspension and claimed that only the Civil Service Commission could fire the policeman. He also left a file on this incident with the District Attorney who wll refer the matter to a Grand Jury next month to determine whether Brumfield could be charged with assault charges.

Meanwhile, Sam Williams had to stand trial for assaulting Brumfield. In less than 5 minutes, the justice court jury returned a not-guilty verdict.

Sun. 8-24-47

Justice will triumph when Brumfield is tried on charges of criminal assault with a deadly weapon. The precedent must be set for police officers to be tried for brutality to prisoners. This case presents the facts for the statement that the white people of the South are susceptible to beatings and killings by the police as long as Negroes are permitted to be lynched and brutalized.

14e

Houston Civil Service Upholds Cop's Dismissal

Defender

Chicago Ill

By JOHN LeFLORE

HOUSTON, Texas— The Houston city civil service commission late Monday upheld the dismissal of a white policeman from the city police department for the use of unnecessary force in arresting a Negro youth for protecting his small children from the officer's vicious dog. Sat. 9-27-47

The commission ruled that Patrolman D. E. Brumfield, 41, had by his own testimony disclosed that extreme methods of force had been used by him in arresting 21-year-old Samuel Williams on Aug. 4, following the shooting of the policeman's dog in the colored youth's yard.

Brumfield testified that he had slapped Williams and then struck him on the side of the head with his gun. He offered the usual excuse of "resisting arrest," as the cause of the use of police brutality to "subdue" the man in custody. The officer denied any other abuse of the youth.

However, Williams and witnesses said that the bull-dozing officer struck the youth with his fist, knocked him down with a violent blow on the head with the butt of his gun and kicked and stomped him as he lay on the ground writhing in pain.

Previously Dismissed

Brumfield was dismissed from the police force on Aug. 14 after vigorous protest against his wanton act of police brutality had been filed with the department. Chief of Police B. W. Payne recommended the firing of the officer as a result of the protest and an investigation.

Brumfield appealed to the civil service commission for reinstatement, which Monday upheld his dismissal.

Hhe was previously employed a patrolman in 1942 and was led in 1944. However, he instated to the job in March,

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Police Brutality Fought by Seamen

14e

PORT ARTHUR, Texas.—Class issues flowed over the color line in this town last week, brought a protest by Negro and white members of the National Maritime Union against the brutality of a Negro policeman. Worker

The policeman, Edwin Tyler, is accused of striking and beating Negro seamen. NMU members, after a meeting, distributed 2,000 leaflets in the west side community here. The leaflet declared that "it took a fight of Negro and white together to get colored policemen on the Port Arthur police force We didn't do this to have these men we fought for double-cross their own people." 10-5-47

The leaflet is entitled "An Open Letter to 'Dynamite' Edwin Tyler," and warns the copper that "we are letting you know that we are citizens too. We vote. We spend our money in Port Athur. We are tax-payers. So stop trying to gain favor with the reactionaries and Ku-Kluxers. Stop bothering and beating up seamen and working men of Port Arthur."

14e

ATTACK ON BLIND VETERAN
REFERRED TO JUSTICE DEPT. Texas October 10, 1947

10-10-47

New York, The NAACP today forwarded to the U. S. Department of Justice the affidavit of Joseph W. Robinson, a blinded veteran of World War II. Robinson, while riding a car being towed by his brother to Lake Charles, La., was attacked on the Beaumont highway by State Police, one of whom struck Robinson in the face breaking his glasses. Robinson's brother, Ernest, was also attacked and both of them were returned to Houston where charges of drunkenness were placed against the men. Press Service of The National Association for The Advancement of Colored People. New York N. Y.

The NAACP in forwarding the affidavit to the Justice Department stated, "We feel that if the facts set forth therein prove to be true, there are grounds for federal intervention and prosecution by your office."

Police Chief Mounts Crusade Against Communists, Negroes

14e

Worker, New York. N. Y.

PORT ARTHUR, Tex.—Citizens of this busy port and oil-refining center are getting a prevue of a "police state" from Police Chief Claude W. Goldsmith, who has taken the lead in organizing an "anti-Communist" movement with the special aim of crushing the political advance of the Negro people. Sun. 12-21-47

In the recent period the crowded West Side Negro community has been welcoming the sale of The Worker very enthusiastically. The National Maritime Union has also made something of a dent into the Jimcrow practices of the town. This union recently distributed a leaflet calling upon the Negro people to pay their poll taxes, and pointing out that it would be fitting for the Negro people to be represented in the city government.

Thereupon the chief of police organized a meeting on the West Side, pressing into service the various hack politicians among the Negro people, and utilizing a number of reactionary leaders of veterans' organizations.

Hysteria was worked up about the fact that "Communist" literature was circulating on the West Side, and the chief announced that he was readying a "file" on Communist activities in Port Arthur. The NMU leaflet was called "inflammatory and likely to lead to race trouble" by Chief Goldsmith.

★

REGRETTABLY, a number of leaders of the white local of the Oil Workers in Port Arthur, where a Jimcrow local of the union is maintained contrary to national CIO policy, joined in the red-baiting meeting that was organized.

A sample of what will happen to civil liberties in this town came shortly afterwards when two white workers, selling The Worker on the West Side, were grabbed by the police and shoved in to jail over-night. They were charged with "vagrancy"; but were soon released and the charges dismissed.

Some years ago, under the corrupt rule of the notorious police chief Baker, Port Arthur was known for its blackout of democratic rights and brutal police attacks on workers, inspired by the Gulf and Texas Oil companies dominating Port Arthur.

Sun. 12-21-47

CITIZENS HERE are wondering whether chief Goldsmith intends to bring those days back again in an effort to prevent the growing political unity of the Negro people and the labor movement.

It is certainly up to the labor movement not to permit intimidation of the Negro people or police interference with the right of citizens to distribute newspapers and leaflets. Otherwise, when the red-baiting of labor's political action gets hotter in 1948, some of those who mistakenly joined in the campaign of intimidation, will find that they themselves will be the victims —particularly the leaders of the Oil Workers' Union.

14e 1947

Virginia

Richmonders Indignant Over Action of Police

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

14e Va.

Sat. 6-21-47

Many Caught in Dragnet Enrolled in School Under Training Program

RICHMOND—Local citizens are becoming increasingly alarmed over the implications and possibilities of a drive by police officials to roundup and require bond of, or jail for, all so-called "vagrants," including veterans in training under the GI Bill.

Colored persons, it is pointed out, will be hardest hit because of the Dixie tradition that confines most of them to menial jobs no matter how skilled they may be in some trade.

Cops Prejudiced

The attitude of police officers who feel that any one without a shovel or broom in his hand is a loafer, is also cited.

Were the drive confined to street-corner loafers, it is asserted it would have something to recommend it, but the practice within the past few weeks has been for officers to accost men at random on the streets and, if not employed, to arrest them.

Other veterans and even persons who are and have been employed for years, complain that they have been stopped on the streets by officers and questioned as to their means of livelihood, especially on occasions when they were out late at night.

Nine-tenths of the number of persons being arrested in the drive are colored, many of whom cannot find work in their line, especially veterans who have acquired various skills during their service in the armed forces.

9 Vets Arrested

Nine such veterans, two of whom showed barber school diplomas and receipts proving they were recipients of unemployment compensation, were arrested and haled before Police Justice Jewett last Thursday. He ordered them to "go to work"—any kind of work. Sat. 6-21-47

The nine young men, arrested by officers who testified that they "hang around street corners and don't work" were all held, four being placed under $100 bonds for four months.

Jail Term Suspended

One was given a suspended jail term and charges against four others were continued to Aug. 1.

A lawyer representing one of the two barbers, both of whose cases were continued to Aug. 1, asked the judge if his client had to take a job other than as a barber.

Lecture by Court

It was at that point that Judge Jewett began his lecture, declaring:

"Certainly. If I couldn't practice law, I'd push a broom around the streets. Any work's all right as long as it's honest. These fellows have just been living off the fat of the land, drawing unemployment compensation.

"Going to Break It Up"

"We're going to break it up. People are clamoring for help and there they are hanging around street corners." Sat. 6-21-47

Then, turning to one of the men against whom he had continued vagrancy charges, the magistrate added:

"Go Tell the Boys"

"You go tell all the boys to go to work. The police department is starting to roundup the boys on the corners (colored "boys" are the only ones being arrested).

"When you leave here, go next door and register for work at the public employment bureau.

"I don't care if you wash windows, pick up paper or sweep the streets, get to work."

Jewett Accepts Police Version

14e Va.

Afro-American Baltimore, Md

Defense Testimony Proves to No Avail

9-13-47

FINED $10, COSTS

Vet Notes Appeal on Each of 2 Counts

RICHMOND—Ignoring testimony that Samuel R. Hill, Army veteran, had done nothing to cause his arrest, following which he was shot in the leg by a policeman, Justice Jewett fined the former sergeant $10 and costs in police court Tuesday morning. 9-13-47

Justice Jewett denied also motions by Martin A. Martin, NAACP attorney and counsel for Hill to dismiss the warrant against the veteran on grounds that he was on private property at the time he was ordered by officers to move on and could not legally be ordered to do so. Baltimore, Md.

Hill was fined $5 and costs on a charge of refusing to move when ordered by two police officers and an additional similar fine for resisting arrest by running when one of the policemen sought to strike him with his club. Appeals to Hustings Court were noted in both cases.

Defense Testimony Iaged

In overruling the motion to dismiss, Justice Jewett discounted testimony to the effect that the veteran was on private property at the time, declaring that any person loitering on the streets or sidewalks shall move when requested to do so by police. 9-13-47

Obviously attempting to prove a statement made in a recent letter to Director of Public Safety Foster, Mr. Martin demanded that the justice (then sitting as a committing magistrate) issue a bench warrant for the offending officer who admitted firing a pistol in the streets. Afro-American

The justice refused, telling the attorney there were city magistrates who could swear out warrants. "Then you refuse to issue a warrant for a man who admits in open court that he fired a gun in the streets in violation of the law," Mr. Martin said.

Officer Admits Shooting

Justice Jewett countered with the assertion that he would go no further than record. The officer in quesiton had testified that he shot at the base of a telephone pole when Hill fled out of a restaurant when he sought to place him under arrest. 9-13-47

(Editor's Note: Policemen are permitted to fire their guns only in emergencies—when they are attempting to halt a person who has committed a felony, or when their own life is in peril. Granting Hill's guilt, the crime alleged was a misdemeanor, not a felony.)

Hill was shot Aug. 16 after Officers J. J. Enroughty and V. F. Hall ordered him to move on as he entered a restaurant in Washington Park. They had been called to the scene to disperse a crowd, the officers testified in police court.

Defense testimony was to the effect that Hill was about to enter the door of the restaurant when the officers told him the "move-on" order "means you, too." After the policemen told him in reply to a question that the place was not under arrest, Hill entered.

Hill was standing at the counter about to place his order, according to eyewitnesses, when one of the officers followed him inside, grabbed him by the collar and attempted to strike him. The veteran fled into the street to escape the blow, it was said.

As he fled, one of the officers cried "Shoot the S.O.B.," it was said, and his companion fired, the bullet striking the man in the leg and grazing the arm of another bystander. Hill was treated at St Philip Hospital for his wound.

Hopewell Housewife Charges Policeman Manhandled Her

Journal & Guide

Norfolk Va.

14e

By CHARLES A. GRIFFIN

HOPEWELL, Va.—Testifying in police court in her own defense on a misdemeanor charge Mrs. Mary Parker Atkins of Second street, said that she had been unwarrantedly manhandled by Police Officer A. Kevscheck who placed her under arrest. Sat.

Mrs. Parker told the court that she had been summoned shortly before court convened to testify as a witness in a criminal hearing, and the police officer came to her residence to take her to court. She said she explained to the policeman that she was under the care of a physician, but the officer grabbed her by the right arm and bruised it, then threw her across her living room chair, injuring her back. 9-27-47

SUMMONED TO COURT

Mrs. Atkins had been summoned to appear in police court to explain why she had not appeared as a witness in the court hearing on Monday and was charged with scratching and biting the police officer. 9-27-47

In her testimony she stated that she was forced to bite the officer's wrist in order to break his hold on her arm in his alleged attempt to throw her out of her front door. She added that the only clothes she had on at the times were night clothes and a robe.

Mr.s Atkins stated that after a struggles she asked the officer to permit her to wash and dress. The policeman, she charged, followed her upstairs to her bedroom where he did not permit her to close the door but stood and watched her take off her clothes and bathe.

The police officer, in defense said that Mrs. Atkins bit him and that she did not appear to him to be sick. Mrs. Atkins produced Hopewell physician stating that and presented a statement from a she was under his supervision and being treated.

The evidence accepted in court showed that the assistant police justice wrote a summons just a few minutes before court convened that Monday for Mrs. Atkins to appear in court as a witness. Her testimony was corroborated by her 13-year-old son, Thomas.

R. H. Cooley, attorney of Petersburg, represented Mrs. Atkins.

Without Hesitation

Judge Frees Man Wounded by Cop

14e

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 11-1-47

RICHMOND, Va.—A man who was wounded by a policeman last Aug. 16, was acquitted by Judge John L. Ingram, of Hustings Court, of two charges filed against him by the man who shot him.

Judge Ingram acquitted Sammy R. Hill, 25, of Corbin Street, without hearing defense testimony. The charges against Hill were loitering and resisting arrest.

COPS TESTIFY Sat. 11-1-47

Patrolman V. F. Hall testified that he and Patrolman J. J. Enroughty were together in a police car on the night of Aug. 16 and craps in front of Eddie's Inn, on Rex Avenue. They ordered the men to disperse, Hall said, but Hill refused to move, saying he was on private property.

Hall said that when Enroughty got out of the car, Hill ran into the tavern. A few minutes later, he said, Enroughty and Hill emerged from the place, "wrestling," and that Hill broke loose from the policeman and started to run.

"FIRED AT POST"

Hall said he called to Hill to halt and when the man kept running he fired his pistol at a telephone pole in an attempt to frighten Hill into stopping. The bullet struck Hill in his left leg.

On cross-examination by Atty. Martin A. Martin, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who appeared for Hill, both policemen said they were not certain that Hill was one of the crap shooters.

After the cross-examination of the policemen, City Atty. J. Elliot Drinard, rested the case for the prosecution. Without hesitation, Judge Ingram declared Hill was innocent of both charges.

Hill appeared in Hustings Court on appeal from Police Court, where he had been fined $5 and costs on each of the two charges.

After the shooting of Hill last August, E. H. Organ, who was then chief of police, ordered an investigation of the incident. So far, no report of the investigation has been made public.

Atlanta Daily World

THE RULES

Editor, The Advertiser: 14g ala.

"Boswell told the committee that flogging was illegal in Arkansas and that if it were outlawed in Alabama he was afraid the guards would begin punishing the convicts without permission and without a doctor being present." Atlanta, Ga.

The above statement appeared in The Advertiser and was said to have been made by State Prison Director Frank Boswell before a committee of the Legislature 10-1-47

Does the great State of Alabama say to the world, through its credited representative, that their paid guards are superior to the State of Alabama, and that these paid guards are controlling the whipping, to be administered, and that the State confesess that it cannot control its hired men? What a travesty? What a confession! How can you expect a convict to obey the rules of the penitentiary, when the men over them are not obeying the rules laid down to them, by their "boss," the State of Alabama?

Montgomery. Sat - 10-1-47 FAIR PLAY.

After Courier Expose

14g

Halt Floggings In Ala. Prisons

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

Sat. 11-1-47

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Strengthening The Courier expose several months ago on widespread brutality to male and female inmates in Alabama prisons, an order Friday by Governor James E. Folsom abolished corporal punishment in penal institutions until a report is made to him concerning them.

The Folsom order comes on the heels of a series of letters written from Atmore Prison by Jimmie C. Todd, a Negro inmate, and the story related in a signed affidavit to The Courier by Wallace Clark, Jacksonville, for fifteen years an inmate at Kilby.

Repeatedly beaten and punished Todd defied all attempts to make him desist from writing concerning his and other inmates' punishments which ranged from solitary confinement without food and water, to lashes up to twenty or more strokes. Both colored and white inmates were flogged at Atmore, Negroes more often, according to Todd's letters. 14g ala.

Clark told The Courier that guards at Kilby Prison often beat women assigned to officials' quarters for work, and frequently beat male convicts into unconsciousness.

He stated that prior to his own release from Kilby, Heywood Patterson, who figured in the infamous Scottsboro trials, was beaten with a baseball bat and thrown into solitary for nine days. Sat. 1-11-4

He alleged that prisoners often reported "escaped" or "dead" from natural causes" were suspected of having been beaten to death.

Negro Spanked In Daphne Camp

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala

On Julep Jag, He Attacked Guard, Says Boswell

Tue. 12-9-47

Prison Director Frank Boswell's office said Monday a Negro convict at Camp Baldwin, Daphne, had been given 15 lashes "for getting drunk on julep and attacking a guard with a butcher knife." 14g ala.

Boswell's office gave the name of the prisoner who received the lashes yesterday as George King, who had been convicted in Houston County on Oct. 25, 1944, for grand larceny and sentenced to serve a five-year sentence.

The order for the lashing was given orally over the telephone, the prison director's secretary said, and had been confirmed in a letter. 12-9-47

She related this account of the incident: Montgomery, ala

The Negro got drunk on julep, the term used for any type alcoholic beverage the prisoners can make, and began cursing a guard, who tried to bring him under control.

The prisoner then obtained a butcher knife from the camp kitchen and attacked the guard but was subdued. Tues

Boswell's office said the information was not available as to how the Negro was subdued.

King's record in the Department of Corrections and Institutions showed he had had three previous convictions, and that on the present sentence he escaped shortly after beginning the term but was recaptured the same day.

A recent order by Gov. Folsom abolished flogging in the State prison system except in "extreme" cases, with such cases to be determined by the prison director.

Ala. Convict Given 15 Lashes for Inebriation, Guard Attack

14g Afro American

Baltimore, Md.

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—George King, a convict serving five years for grand larceny in Houston county, was given 15 lashes for drunkenness and attacking a guard with a knife, upon orders of Frank Boswell, State prison director, he admitted last week. Gov. James E. Folsom recently abolished flogging except in such cases.

Referring to the incident as an "extreme case," Boswell said he authorized the punishment when the convict was charged with getting drunk on "julep," an alcoholic concoction made from various ingredients, and attacked a guard with a butcher knife obtained from the camp kitchen. Sat. 12-20-47

The prison director pointed out that King was convicted on Oct. 25, 1944, had served three previous terms, and had escaped shortly after beginning the present sentence at Camp Baldwin.

Two Convicts Flogged After Road Camp Fight

The Montgomery Advertiser
7/31/47 Montgomery, Ala.

State Prison Director Frank Boswell said yesterday two more convicts had been flogged, in this instance for fighting at the Union Springs road camp. 7/31/47

Boswell said the prisoners, both Negroes, were given 10 lashes each on his approval and in the presence of a doctor.

They were caught fighting Sunday, the director added, one wielding soft drink bottles, and the other an ax. Neither was hurt in the encounter, he said.

FLOGGINGS IN PRISONS OF ALABAMA LISTED

~~The New York Times~~
The New York Times, N.Y., N.Y.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 18 (AP)—Frank Boswell, state prison director, said today that fourteen convicts had been flogged at state penal institutions since Aug 1. Hereafter, he added, he would make a public report each month on the number whipped and the reasons.

Besides fourteen cases in August, he stated, six convicts were flogged in the last two days of July. Tue-8-19-47

Lashings, he said, were administered on his verbal consent, which was followed up by written authority.

Five of the six flogged in July were punished for escaping, the prison director said, but on Aug. 1 he had forbidden whipping for escapes and had ordered that instead convicts be brought into court on escape charges. State law provides additional sentences of as much as twelve months for fleeing from custody.

The prison director said that the number of lashes ranged from eight to fifteen and averaged ten. He added that all were administered in the presence of doctors.

He listed these as the reasons for this month's whippings:

Attacking other prisoners—3; insubordination and refusal to work—4; drunkenness or possessing alcoholic beverages—3; possessing knives—1; robbing other prisoners—2; possessing narcotics—1. Tue-8-19-47

Eleven of the prisoners were white, the director stated, and three were negroes.

More Prison Floggings Rouse Alabamans Ire

The Worker - N.Y., N.Y.
Sun. 8-10-47

BIRMINGHAM.—Two more floggings, this time of Negro male prisoners, were added this week to the shameful list of beatings in Alabama prisons. This brings the number since July 22 to eight, including one Negro woman. Sun. 8-10-47

Sentiment in this state is overwhelmingly against the floggings. The leading newspapers have editorialized sharply against it. The United Council of Church Women, representing 90 churches of seven denominations, met recently in Birmingham to protest the floggings.

A bill has been introduced in the State Legislature to abolish corporal punishment, and Governor Folsom, though he supported the State Prison Director at first, has now, under public pressure, urged the Legislature to set up a commission for an exhaustive study of Alabama penal institutions.

Flogging Prisoners Okeh If Justified, Governor Believes

Birmingham, Ala.
Fri 7-25-47
B'ham. News

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 25—Flogging of prisoners in instances where it is justified is approved by Gov. James E. Folsom.

"I don't believe a little spanking now and then hurts them," he told a news conference. "And it seems to work. It is administered in a doctor's presence and has proved effective in keeping the prisoners in line."

Convicts have to be handled "much as we do our children," the governor added.

If a better means of disciplining convicts could be found, the governor said he would be in favor of it. Solitary confinement on a bread and water diet is "more brutal" than the lash, he said.

The governor's comments came after Prison Director Frank Boswell confirmed the fact that four men and a Negro woman had been whipped in the past two weeks. Other floggings have been reported in recent weeks.

Folsom Avows Some Convicts Need Spanking

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery Ala.
Fri. 7/25/47

Asserting that convicts sometimes have to be handled "much as we do our children," Gov. Folsom said yesterday he thought prison floggings in some instances were justified.

"I don't believe a little spanking now and then hurts them," he told a news conference, "and it seems to work. It is administered in a doctor's presence, and has proven effective in keeping the prisoners in line."

He added that if a better means of disciplining convicts could be found, he would be in favor of it, but asserted he thought solitary confinement on a bread and water diet was "more brutal" than the lash. Fri-7-27-47

The governor's comment came during a discussion of recent floggings in Alabama prisons.

Prison Director Frank Boswell said yesterday officials had whipped four men and a Negro woman in the past two weeks. Other floggings have been reported in recent weeks.

Negro Woman Flogged In Alabama Prison

The Worker
New York, N.Y.

BIRMINGHAM.—The shameful shadow of the convict lease system rose again over Alabama as it was reported that at least 10 prisoners including one Negro woman, have been flogged in state penitentiaries in the last two weeks.

Frank Boswell, state prison director, brazenly defended the floggings under questioning by a Birmingham News reporter.

Asked whether he defended the inhuman practice, Boswell replied: **"Definitely. To put a man in solitary confinement on bread and water really does no good. They come out of it with a little fever perhaps but they really don't mind. But even shake the strap over them and they behave themselves."**

The Worker 8-3-47
N.Y. N.Y. Sun 8/3/47

NEGRO LEADERS in Birmingham have expressed deep indignatioon over the whipping of the Negro woman prisoner in the Julia Tutwiler prison. The woman, listed as Willie Mae McNabb, was alleged to have attacked one of the guards with a hoe while she was working in a field squad. Boswell authorized her to be flogged with 12 lashes, which are administered by prison guards with six and eight pound leather thongs.

Emory Jackson, editor of the **Birmingham World**, largest Negro paper in the state, sent a telegram to the Governor demanding an end to flogging and the immediate dismissal of Frank Boswell.

The **Birmingham News Age Herald** spoke out against the brutal practice: **"The best way to deal with this problem is to follow the lead of 42 other states and forbid flogging altogether."** Sun. 8-3-47

The Mobile Press Register, next largest daily paper, editorialized: **"Convict flogging is a form of punishment which Alabama is advanced enough to abandon. . . . Corporal punishment ought to be outlawed as a stench in the nostrils of society. . . ."**

The statewide expression of indignation was somewhat dampened by Gov. Folsom's resort to political expediency in coming to the defense of Boswell, his appointee, in spite of widespread condemnation of the floggings.

The people of Alabama, especially the United Mine Workers and the AFL, worked for 30 years to get convict labor out of the mines. Clearly the recent exposures indicate that a new campaign will have to be undertaken

Report Over 40 Lashings

By Special Correspondent

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The Twentieth Century Inquisition continues in Dixie! Alabama has joined Georgia as the South sinks to a new all-time low for bestial barbarism. At Kilby Prison and the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women, both men and women prisoners are being flogged.

Most gruesome of all is the reported lashing of a woman prisoner by burly guards who wielded six and eight-pound thongs.

The reign of terror, temporarily snatched from the hands of hate-maddened mobs and put into the more "legitimate" hands of regularly appointed "defenders of law and order," swung into high gear at Kilby, scene of the incarceration of the famed Scottsboro defendants. The floggings and lashings were inflicted for what observers term minor infractions.

ADMITS FLOGGINGS

The heart-rending revelations of the floggings of last week were given more startling emphasis when it was learned that Hugh Sparrow, political writer for the Birmingham News, had uncovered forty whippings during the month of June.

Pittsburgh Courier

Frank Boswell, prison director, according to Sparrow, admitted that Kilby prison practiced official and unofficial lash punishment. However, Boswell declined to comment, Sparrow said, on the reported June floggings. Pittsburgh, Pa.

Moving swiftly on the heels of the revelations, the Birmingham branch of the NAACP wired Gov. James E. Folsom here, urging him to "Halt Kilby floggings. Fire Boswell. Institute reforms."

But it was reported that Governor Folsom has given his approval to corporal punishment, and stated that he was "for it" until some better method can be devised. Sat. 8/2/47

In the flogging last week, during which a Negro woman was lashed, four of the six reported floggings involved Negro prisoners. How many of the forty June beatings involved Negroes has not been definitely established.

WHIP, THEN SIGN

Irregularity within the flogging system was revealed when in one case a white prisoner was flogged on one day, and the consent order for his flogging was signed by Director Boswell on the next day. Warden Dennis at Kilby has instructed guards to administer the lash punishments, writer Sparrow said. Sat. 8/2/47

Willie Mae McNabb, inmate of the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women, was given from ten to fifteen lashes "for attempting to assault a guard," according to a letter written by Mrs. W. A. Austin, prison superintendent.

Mrs. Austin charged that the woman had engaged in some minor arguments within the prison and as a result had been ordered to go out to work with the field squad. Upon being reprimanded by the guard in charge of the squad, the superintendent's letter said that the prisoner "attempted to assault him."

GETS TEN LASHES

A Mobile County prisoner, Hubert White, was given twelve lashes for allegedly, repeatedly loafing and always talking back to the guard when reprimanded about his work." Sat 8-2-47

William Lee Oakley, a Lauderdale County prisoner, received ten lashes for an alleged escape attempt while unloading supplies in Kilby's central warehouse. Theodore Parks, another Mobile County prisoner, got ten lashes for trying to escape while serving as a trusty at the State capitol.

What action will be taken by Governor Folsom is problematical, since no statement from the Governor was made after the revolting disclosures became public.

Barbarisms, Floggings Stalk Alabama Prisons

Atlanta Daily W

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— Alabama has joined Georgia in prison barbarism as women and men prisoners were reported flogged and lashed for trivial and minor infractions of prison regulations here at

Kilby prison last week.

Floggiugs had no respect for se In one of the few instances in Alabama penal history-whether whi or black a Negro woman wa whipped by burly made guards wit 6 and 8 pound thongs.

Hugh Sparrow, political writer for the Birmingham News, uncovered 540 whippings during June. Frank Boswell, prison director, according to Sparrow, admitted that Kilby practiced official and unofficial lash punishment. However, Boswell did not comment, Sparrow says on the reported June floggings. Tues 7-29-47

The Birmingham Branch, N A. A. C. P. in a wire to Gov. James E. Folsom urged him to "halt Kilby floggings Fire Boswell. Institute reforms."

Governor Folsom has given his approval to corporal punishment. He says, "I am for it" until some better method can ge devised.

Four of the six reported floggings last week were Negro prisoners. It has not been established just how many of the 40 June whipings were Negroes.

According to Sparrow, in one case of a white prisoner, the whipping took place one day and the consent was signed by Director Boswell the next day. Warden Dennis has instructed to give the lash punishment, Sparrow wrote.

Willie Mae McNabb, inmate of the Julia Tutwiler Prison for women, received from 10 to 15 lashes for attempting to assault a guard," according to a letter sent down by Mrs. W. A. Austin, prison superintendent. The sperintendent charged in her letter that the woman had engaged in a series of minor argumets within the prison and as a result had been ordered into the field with the field squad. Upon being reprimanded by the guard in charge of the squad, the superintendent's letter declared the prisoner" attempted to assault him."

Hubert White, from Mobile County received 12 lashes "for the offense of repeatedly loafing on the job and always talking back to the guard when reprimanded about his work.

149 Ala

Willie Lee Oakley, Lauderdale County, received 10 lashes for the offense of escaping while unloading supplies in the central warehouse at Kilby Prison

Thedore Parks, Mobile County received 16 lashes for attempting to escape while serving as a trusty at the capitol.

'Scottsboro Case' Negro Is Flogged

Montgomery, Ala.

Advertiser

149 Ala

Ten lashes with a four-foot-long strap, administered while he was fully clothed and with a doctor present, was the punishment Heywood Patterson received for stabbing another Negro convict at Kilby Prison, Warden Tennyson Dennis said today.

Patterson, one of the Negroes involved in the celebrated "Scottsboro Case" of 1931, was flogged yesterday along with the other Negro, Willis Bruce, as an outgrowth of a fight Saturday night. Dennis said Bruce likewise received 10 blows with the strap.

Bruce, serving six years for grand larceny from Montgomery County, slugged Patterson with an iron bar and the latter retaliated with a homemade dirk during a row in their cell block at Kilby, the warden related, but neither was seriously hurt.

State Prison Director Frank Boswell said he approved the floggings because "I couldn't afford to make an exception." He explained that other prisoners have been whipped for fighting and lesser infraction of prison rules. wed. 9-3-47

Dennis said neither man suffered any ill effects from the strap and both returned immediately to their work in the prison. Advertiser

Patterson was sentenced to a 75-year term for criminal assault in 1937 as one of the nine Negroes involved in the "Scottsboro Case" which attracted worldwide attention and stayed in the courts for six years. Montgomery Ala.

Ever since he entered Kilby, Director Boswell said, he has been a "mean convict," and his record shows 12 demotions and two previous floggings.

He received 21 lashes in 1938 for possessing a dirk, the record disclosed, and 12 on Aug. 15 of this year for "consistently violating" prison rules and having an alcoholic drink in his possession.

The non-operating personnel affected involve such employes as clerks, telegraphers, maintenance men and others not employed directly in the running of trains.

Executives of the 350,000 operating employes announced they would meet in Cleveland Monday to consider adding a wage demand to their previous request for changes in 44 working rules.

Boswell Notes 14 Floggings

advertiser

149 Ala

Monthly Reports Giving Reasons Promised; Morale Better

Tue. 8-19-1947

Montgomery Ala.

State Prison Director Frank Boswell said today 14 convicts had been flogged at state penal institutions since Aug. 1, and that hereafter he would make a public report each month on the number whipped and the reasons.

Boswell said that in addition to the 14 disclosed today, six others were strapped in the last two days of July, but that his letters of authority to prison officials were not sent out until after Aug. 1. He explained that the lashings were administered on his verbal consent, which was followed up by written authority.

Five of those six were punished for escaping, the prison director said, a practice since ordered halted. As of Aug. 1, Boswell has forbidden whipping of convicts for escaping and has ordered them instead to be brought into court on escape charges.

State law provides additional sentences of as much as 12 months for fleeing from custody.

Of the prisoners flogged this month, Boswell said eight were at Draper Prison, six at Kilby and two at the Maplesville road camp for white convicts.

Three of those whipped last month for escaping were at the Headland road camp for white prisoners; one was at Draper and the other at Kilby.

Boswell said the number of lashings ranged from eight to 15, and averaged 10. He said all were administered in the presence of doctors.

Reasons Listed

The prison director listed these as the reasons for this month's whippings:

For attacking other prisoners—three. Tue - 8-19-47

For insubordination and refusal to work—4.

For drunkenness or possessing alcoholic beverages—3.

For possessing knives—1.

For robbing other prisoners—two.

For possessing narcotics—1.

Eleven of the prisoners were white men, the director said, and three were Negroes.

Boswell also disclosed he had sent officials to the Maplesville camp "because it's not going good." He said the camp lacked "proper supervision," but that "steps are being taken to straighten it out."

Aside from that, he said discipline and morale in the prison system was "the best it has been since I became director (last January)."

Boswell Asserts 'Mighty Ba Prison Conditions Improved

Montgomery Advertiser

149 Ala

Montgomery Ala.

8-27-47 wed.

A departmental investigation which led to appointment of a new warden and steward at the Maplesville road camp has "cleaned up" some "mighty bad" conditions at the camp, State Prison Director Frank Boswell disclosed yesterday.

The director said his investigation showed "the convicts were not given proper food or medical care or clean clothes. They changed clothes only once a week although they were working on the roads."

The 58 prisoners in the camp, located in Chilton County were dissatisfied, Boswell said.

"They had a right to be," he added, "I'm afraid some of them were physically mistreated.

"Things were mighty rough at the camp but they have been cleaned up and the atmosphere is entirely different now."

Boswell said the former Warden, Sam Holman, had been transferred to other duties in the State Highway Department and "will have no more supervision over prison labor." Holman was succeeded by B. W. Watson, he said. 8-27-47 wed.

Maplesville and other road camps are operated by the Highway Department but personnel and care of the prisoners are handled by Boswell's department.

The stewart, identified as Pierson Barnes, also was transferred, the director said, and V. R. Andrews was named to fill the vacancy.

Boswell said he had ordered Warden Holman discharged several months ago for flogging prisoners without his permission and without a doctor being present. He rescinded the order later, however, and recommended Holman be suspended for 30 days, he added. 8-27-47 wed.

"Reports I have received from the camp in the past few days show things are moving along fine there now," the director said. "The public is invited to visit the camp and talk to any prisoner."

1947

eorgia

5 Negroes Dead In Georgia Break

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

Guards Open Fire When 27 Make For Fence

Sat. 7-12-47

BRUNSWICK, GA., July 11.—(AP)—Five Negro convicts were shot to death and eight others wounded, two critically, at a state highway work camp today in an escape attempt, Warden W. G. Worthy said. Twelve surrendered.

149

The warden declared that five prison guards and three county policemen opened fire with shotguns and rifles on 27 Negro convicts when they made a break for a 12-foot fence enclosing the prison camp at Anguilla, 12 miles northwest of Brunswick.

Warden Worthy gave this account of the shooting:

A group of new prisoners joined the camp yesterday, and were sent out today to work. They refused to work and were brought back to the camp. They wouldn't get out of the trucks and the warden called county police.

The Negroes finally got out of the trucks when the police chief finished talking to them. But they broke and ran to the barracks, and dove under the building.

The prisoners crawled on under the building and ran toward the fence enclosure on the other side. Sat. 7-12-47

14g 1947

Georgia

Georgia to Probe Prison Brutality

Afro-American

Substitute Warden Admits Beating Inmate

Baltimore, Md.

ATLANTA (ANP)—All all-out probe into brutalities of Georgia's prisoners began last week following the confession of a substitute warden that he violently punished a prisoner on four different occasions. Sat. 6-28-47

W. J. Morton told Chief Prison Inspector Walter Matthews that he beat Mose Harper, a prisoner, because Harper made him break his arm. The prisoner caught Morton's foot just before he could kick him and the warden fell, he said, breaking his arm.

Camp Ordered Closed

Harper was an inmate of the Jones County Public Works camp which has been ordered closed as a result of the investigation by the State Board of Corrections. The camp's 20 prisoners were transferred to the Reidsville state prison.

Morton admitted beating Harper with a stick on one of the four occasions, when he learned that the prisoner had complained to prison authorities about the beatings. Sat. 6-28-47

Inspector Matthews said Harper was subsequently beaten on various days in violation of the penal reform law against corporal punishment in Georgia prison camps, initiated in 1943 under former Gov. Ellis Arnall's administration.

Convict Cruelties Still Plague

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World 149

In its third inspection of flogging of a Negro convict, Mose Harper, at the penal camp near Gray, Ga., in Jones county, the State Department of Corrections reported new evidence Monday. The new evidence will be submitted to the board which will decide whether to close the camp permanently or accept the apology of county officials and W. J. Morton, who allegedly did the flogging. Fri. 7-11-47

Morton, a county official acting as warden, is said to have admitted beating Harper with a mattock-handle and a hickory stick on four or five occasions. Morton said the first beating was provoked when Harper gave him some back talk and tripped him when he kicked at Harper. When Harper grabbed Morton's leg he is said to have fallen and suffered a broken arm.

The subsequent beatings occurred Morton reportedly said when he would awake at night from pain resulting from the injury he sustained and resolve to return to the camp next morning and beat Harper anew. Fri. 7-11-47

Prison Camp Closed After Brutality To Prisoner

149 Ga. Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Fri. 6-13-47

The Jones County Public Works Camp was closed by the State Board of Corrections because of a substitute warden's brutality to a Negro prisoner.

State Director of Correction C. A. Williams said the Board will move its 19 State prisoners from the Jones County camp June 30 and will send no more State prisoners to Jones County.

Action of the Board follows what Williams described as "the most flagrant case of prisoner abuse since inauguration of the Penal Reform Program.

Chief Prison Inspector Walter Matthews said W. J. Morton, Clerk of the Jones County Commissioners and substitute warden, admitted beating Mose Harper, a Negro prisoner, on four different occasions. Fri. 6-13-47

WHIPPED WITH STICK

The fourth whipping-with a stick occured after a prison inspector had made a preliminary investigation of Harper's orginal complaints, according to Matthews.

Morton was quoted as saying he beat the prisoner because the latter had caused him to break his arm. The official said Harper walked "insolently" to him when he ordered him to drive a bus. When Morton kicked at the prisoner, Harper grapped his foot and caused the official to fall and break his arm. The inspector's report said the white man beat Harper on various days after this, administering four or five whippings.

This is the second prison camp to be closed for mistreatment of prisoners. The camp in adjoining Monroe County was closed more than a year ago after a Negro prisoner was shot and killed by a guard, who the Board said was drunk.

Fri. 6-13-47

The penal reform law of 1943 outlawed corporal punishment in Georgia prison camps. 149 Ga.

Terror Grips Ga. Convicts

By JAMES E. BOYACK
(Special Correspondent)

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Rumors that prisoners in the State Highway Prison Camp 18, at Anguilla near here, were living in a state of terror and "under threat of immediate death" from Warden H. G. Worthy, and his prison guards, caused widespread apprehension among the colored population of this coastal city here last week.

Eight inmates were shot dead and five wounded by the warden and seven guards last July 11 in the stockade during an alleged attempt at mass escape.

LETTER TELLS STORY

A letter from a terror-stricken inmate was smuggled out to a representative of the NAACP and made public by the national office in New York.

The letter stated in part that "we are all in danger and need your help at once."

Other developments in the massacre that shocked the Nation, were: Pittsburgh Courier

The Department of Justice shut down a tight censorship on press comment on the case pending an investigation by the FBI. A spokesman told The Courier that the matter was "under active consideration." Pittsburgh, Pa.

Prof. James H. Sheldon, administrative chairman of the non-sectarian Anti-Nazi League, wrote Attorney General Tom C. Clark, recommending a complete and thorough investigation of this tragedy . . . looking towards prosecution under the civil rights statutes." Sat. 8/2/47

Roy Wilkins, NAACP assistant secretary, notified Gov. M. E. Thompson of receipt of the prisoner's letter, and declared in part:

> **"The letter asserts that the men have been threatened with death on the slightest provocation."**

He urged that Warden Worthy be placed on inactive duty, pending the outcome of a suggested special investigation to be ordered by the Governor.

Mr. Wilkins said that the warden should not be permitted to supervise and threaten men in a camp where eight prisoners have just been shot dead.

LeRoy Carter of the NAACP was sent here to consult with local leaders concerning the possibility of further legal action.

Successful Penal Reform

The Atlanta Co

"Apparently shunning the spotlight of publicity which recently played on the Jones County public works camp which was closed by the Board, Warden Rowland was quoted by the inspector as offering to resign his post immediately in order to escape any unfavorable publicity in event the Board did not forgive him."—Excerpt from news story on State Board of Corrections inquiry into charges of cruelty to prisoners in Colquitt County camp.

149 Wed. 8-13-47

That is one of the soundest tributes ever paid to the power of the press in the prison reform program. It is an acknowledgement that the wardens are aware of the public opinion against abuse of helpless prisoners. Pol. Atlanta Ga.

It is to the credit of the State Board of Corrections that it made no secret deal with a warden, but, instead brought him before the public for a hearing.

The Constitution does not know whether Warden A. C. Rowland is guilty of beating prisoners in violation of the State law. Chief Prison Inspector Walter Matthew, a capable, honest, and fearless State official, says the warden admitted violating the law. The warden, Matthews told the State Board; ~~explained~~ the circumstances and asked forgiveness. If forgiveness were not forthcoming, the warden offered to resign immediately in order to avoid unfavorable publicity for himself and his county camp.

The State Board properly believes that an official who applies the lash or the whip on the backs of prisoners should be punished even more than by losing his job. It wisely sends its data to the prosecuting attorney for him to bring criminal prosecution if he wishes.

If a warden is guilty of cruelty, his quiet resignation would hardly cure the situation even in his particular county. And what of the other counties where some brutal-minded guard might be thinking of beating a prisoner. A secret resignation of a warden in another camp, forced by the State Board, would not reach his ears.

When the State Board hales an official into a public hearing, broadcasts the evidence of cruelty, and closes the camp, every prison official in Georgia knows about it.

Making an example of every case of prison cruelty may be hard on the few offenders, but it is a sure way to guarantee the success of the penal reform program. Wed. 8-13-47

Gov. Thompson Sent Copy Of Men's Message

Atlanta Daily World

Pol. Atlanta Ga.

NEW YORK—NAACP officials in New York disclosed Saturday that terror stricken Negroes in the Anguilla Prison camp near Brunswick, Georgia, where eight of their number had been blasted to death by the warden and Negro-hating guards recently had been successful in smuggling a desperate appeal for help to the Association's representatives. Sun. 7-27-47

The letter, painfully scrawled on sheets of crupled paper, reached N. A. A. C. P. headquarters in New York Thursday. The convict, whose identity could not be disclosed, wrote...."Dear sir, Just a few lines to let you hear fom us all. We all are really in danger down here an

we need you all help at once, please! This warden is out on Bonder and still has same Job as a warden over us prisoners this Man he may Kill all of us an his wife to. --Why he still has a pistol on him an giving order to us something may happen on the 21 of July we do not--knew for the warden he tell us all. what will happen on-- Monday morning we is not giveing him no trouble but he is still all the time naggin at us all every morning he says something to us for what we do not knew.

"he tell the short gun man if we stoup down to fire the gun: that is doing bad all ready. all the same gun mans and the same warden who did the killen they all has the same job. why give him too much of a chance. he will have kill eight all ready O, please Mr. we need some one to look after us; he knew we all are helpless an has all the chance he want. please send us some one down here to look after I am so nervest please excuse this band hand--writing from all of the boys (P S.) will give this letter to the N. A. A. C. P. think you ever to much."

GOVERNOR NOTIFIED

Roy Wilkins, NAACP Asst. Secy., immediately notified Georgia Governor M. E. Thompson of receipt of the smuggled letter, stating, "We are attaching copy of a letter received today from the prison camp at Anguilla, Georgia, setting forth the fear of the men over the attitude and actions of Warden W. G. Worthy.

"The letter asserts that the men have been threatened with death on the slightest provocation.

"This Association assumes that the State of Georgia is conducting an investigation into the slaughter of eight convicts upon the order of Warden Worthy. We wish to urge that Warden Worthy be placed on inactice duty pending the outcome of this investigation and not be permitted to supervise and threaten men in a camp where eight prisoners have just been shot dead."

CARTER TO BRUNSWICK

Continuing its activity to secure the complete investigation and prosecution of the warden and others responsible for the Anguilla Prison Camp lynching, the NAACP dispatched LeRoy E. Carter, assistant field secretary to Brunswick, Georgia.

Mr. Carter addressed a membership meeting sponsored by the Brunswick branch on Sunday, July 27 and met, with state officials to plan coordinated action with Georgia branches and to secure the support of white groups, trade unions and churches. An effort will be made by Mr. Carter to determine the possibilities for action against the responsible parties under the new Georgia State Penal Code, which clearly states the responsibility of prison officials for the welfare of prisoners.

Georgia branches were urged in an action letter from Gloster B. Current, director of branches, to hold mass meetings protesting the brutal lynching and massacre at the Anguilla Prison Camp.

Indicative of aroused public opinion in Georgia as a result of N. A. A. C. P.s' activities is a report from the Columbus, Georgia branch T J. Johnson, branch secretary, reported to the National Office that there is divided sentiment among the white people in Gorgia. While a morning paper in Columbus put the NAACP resolution condemning the lynching on the front page, an evening paper criticized the statements asking for prosecution and terming the shooting mass murder. Sun. 7-21-47

BRANCH RESOLUTIONS

The resolution of the Columbus branch is as follows:

"We, the members of the Columbus NAACP, are condemning the brutal killing and shooting of seven Negro prisoners by prison guards at Brunswick, Georgia, Friday.

"We are calling upon our state attorney general to see that a thorough investigation is made of this affair.

"We further resolve that we believe that the shooting was unjustified.

"We are asking for prosecution of the warden and guards responsible for this mass murder."

Georgia Quits Running State Prison Camps

ATLANTA, Aug. 16—(AP)—The State of Georgia has removed itself completely from direct operation of state highway prison camps.

Still remaining, however, are about 89 county operated road camps which are subject to inspection by the state.

Closure of the two camps operated by the state alone came after the fatal shooting of eight Negro convicts at the Glynn County Camp. Officials at the camp said the convicts were shot in a mass attempt to escape. Sun. 8-17-47

Besides the Glynn County Camp for Negroes, the state also had operated a road camp for white prisoners in Charlton County.

Prisoners at the Glynn camp have already been transferred to various county camps. The white prisoners, however, asked that their camp be kept open, a request that was denied by failure of the board to act at a meeting yesterday.

The state plans to remove the white prisoners to the state prison at Reidsville. Sun. 8-17-47

New York Times

GEORGIA MOVES FORWARD

N.Y., N.Y. Wed. 8-13-47

The one encouraging aspect of still recurrent outbreaks of race oppression in the deep South is that they are at last, in one way or another, producing a healthy reaction toward amelioration. In the past they were folded into a dark fog of bigotry as something nobody could or would be allowed to do anything about. Now we find more and more just and liberal-minded people in the South itself determined to stamp out the spread of these evil marsh fires. The latest example comes from Georgia, where the State Board of Corrections has just abolished its highway convict camp system.

On July 11, near Brunswick, Ga., eight Negro convicts were shot to death by camp guards in what was described as an escape attempt. As was expected, a Superior Court grand jury exonerated the warden and five guards as "justified in their action." Yet the Glynn County Commissioner, Sam Levine, now dares to go before the Prison Board and testify that this slaughter was, in effect, a needless massacre. The Negroes had been brought back to the camp not for refusing to work but because they feared to enter a snake-infested ditch. They were not bent on escape. County policemen present at the camp refused the warden's order to open fire, but the guards emptied their shotguns. The Board of Corrections promptly voted to close the last two most noisome of these man-traps.

This at least shows progress, though not as much as the rest of the nation would like to see. Georgia abandoned her notorious chain-gangs four years ago, but she still retains her eighty-nine county-controlled convict labor camps, the most antiquated penal system in the United States, dating clear back to 1848. Yet it is interesting to speculate on what might have happened had the usurping Governor, Herman Talmadge, still been in office—probably nothing. The influence of the new Governor, Melvin Thompson, is milder and more advanced. Even the exonerating Glynn County grand jury was shamed into a recommendation to close its vicious home-grown camp. So in Georgia, as in the rest of the South, the area of enlightenment perceptibly spreads and "freedom slowly broadens down from precedent to precedent."

Wed 8-13-47

Georgian Wins Probe Of Prison Massacre, To Run for Governor

The Worker—N.Y.

Sun. 8-24-47

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—Sam A. Levine, Glynn County Commissioner who forced the closing of grim Anguilla Prison Camp where eight Negro prisoners were massacred July 11 has announced his candidacy for governor of the state of Georgia.

A hard-hitting foe of the white supremacy gang, Levine, a local merchant, almost single-handed defeated the Talmadge forces in last year's county elections. He had solid support of the Negro population.

Levine met with a cross-section of Georgia progressives last Tuesday and laid plans for writing a popular people's platform.

Following the prison camp massacre Levine went to Atlanta and in testimony before the Board of Corrections exposed the shameless grand jury whitewash of prison officers who shot the Anguilla Camp Negroes. Sun. 8-24-47

Levine told the Board, the camp was a "stain on the state of Georgia," that the killings had been "whitewashed from top to bottom," and "the majority of the people in the community were still up in the air about the whole incident."

"Unless Warden Worthy and his guards leave Brunswick at once I will resign my post as Commissioner and leave Georgia," he said. "The warden and the guards are incapable illiterates, incapable of guarding or managing anything. Sun. 8-24-47

"If you permit the Brunswick prison camp to remain in Glynn County, I will leave Georgia, but before I do I will go on the radio all over Georgia, because I will not tolerate that camp to remain. . . . The camp is in politics, the foodstuffs are in politics, the drugs are in politics and the whole function of the camp is in politics—that is the trouble today. Sun. 8-24-47

"Those men were murdered."

THE BOARD'S ACTION in closing the camp followed the reading of a petition from the United Fur and Leather Workers bearing 10,000 signatures from workers in New England, and protests from many organizations in Brunswick, demanding that something be done to protect the prisoners and bring the warden and the guards to justice.

Georgia Ends Convict Road Gangs

Slaying of 8 Called Inexcusable

The New York Times

N.Y., N.Y.

By The U

ATLANTA, Aug. 11—Georgia abolished its highway convict camp system today in the aftermath of the bloody July 11th riot at the Glynn County camp which allegedly developed when guards ordered Negro prisoners into a ditch occupied by poisonous snakes. Tues 8-12-47

Details on the riot fatal to eight Negroes were given to the State Board of Corrections by Sam Levine, Glynn County Commissioner, at a hearing which culminated in a vote to abolish the Glynn County camp and the white camp in nearby Charlton County.

"A Negro is afraid of a snake and so am I," Mr. Levine testified.

He also charged that guards at the Glynn County camp were drunk, "have no intelligence and don't know how to use a gun."

Mrs. J. C. Blalock, woman member of the corrections board, moved to abolish the state camps on the ground that desperate prisoners should not be put in a position to escape so easily and prisoners were better treated in state prisons and county camps. Ben Landrum and Turner Brice, the two other members present, voted with her.

The Charlton camp was already in the process of breaking up and the order closing the Glynn camp marked the end of a highway convict system which at one time comprised nine big concentrations of long-term prisoners.

Today's hearing developed from a recommendation by the Glynn County grand jury that the camps be abolished. The recommendation followed protests from all over the country about the slayings last month. The grand jury exonerated the warden and four guards involved in the shooting.

Mr. Levine testified that the camp was a disgrace to Glynn County and a disgrace to the state. He said he went to a barbecue at the camp two weeks before the riot and found the guards drunk.

"There was no justification for the killings," he declared. "The chief of county police and two policemen were there, but they didn't see any reason to shoot the prisoners. They had tear gas guns they could have used.

"I saw the Negroes where they fell. Two were killed where they crawled under the bunkhouse and two others as they ran under their cells. The only thing they were trying to escape was death. Only one tried to get over the fence."

The shootings ended a demonstration in the prison stockade after the prisoners had been returned from the road gang.

If the prisoners had planned to escape, Mr. Levine asserted, they could easily have overpowered their two guards on the road in-stead of waiting until they wereback in the barracks surrounded by guards and police all heavilyarmed.

The Convicts Did Not Die in Vain

Pittsburgh Courier - Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 9-27-47

The decision last week of the State Board of Corrections of Georgia to abolish forthwith the State-controlled road camps shows that the eight Negro convicts who died before the guns of the warden and prison guards at the Glynn County road camp on July 11 did not die in vain.

True the FBI is investigating the case further and there is a likelihood that the murderers may eventually be brought to justice and not whitewashed, but whether anybody is ever punished for this horrible crime, the State-controlled road camps are now a thing of the past.

The county road camps will still be continued in Georgia but indications are that it will not be very long before they, too, will be abolished.

The Pittsburgh Courier is proud that its personal investigation of the massacre by a skilled reporter, James E. Boyack, and the international publicity that resulted, played no small part in bringing about the revolutionary change.

We think, too, that a great deal of credit is due Sam Levine, Glynn County Commissioner for the forthright manner in which he exposed and blasted the guilt of the killers.

Not only did he charge that he once found the guards drunk at the Glynn County camp, but that they had "no intelligence and don't know how to use a gun."

Mr. Levine further told the State Board of Corrections that the camp was a disgrace to Glynn County and to the State, charging that: "There was no justification for the killings. The chief of county police and two policemen were there, but they didn't see any reason to shoot the prisoners. They had tear gas guns they could have used. I saw the Negroes where they fell. Two were killed where they crawled under the bunkhouse and two others as they ran under their cells. The only thing they were trying to escape was death. Only one tried to get over the fence."

While Commissioner Levine only did his duty by blasting the culprits, it is still a very rare occurance for a Southern official, especially in Georgia, to be so fair and outspoken.

By so doing he has rendered great service to his State and American civilization, setting a pattern of conduct which it is to be hoped other Southern officials will follow from now on.

Meantime it is to be hoped that the Federal Bureau of Investigation will spare no effort to see that the murderers of these eight hapless convicts pay the supreme penalty for their crime.

RALPH T. JONES

When We Visited The Convict Camps

ATLANTA, Ga. CONSTITUTION

10-4-47 Sat.

Whenever there is a news story about happenings at one or other of the convict camps of the various Georgia counties, memory always jumps back to an automobile tour made years ago around the convict camps in South Georgia.

The Legislature which had adjourned had named a committee to inspect the camps with the specific charge of discovering whether rumors of cruel and inhuman punishments imposed on recalcitrant charges by the guards and wardens were true or false.

Just a few years previously the then Governor, Hardwick, had issued an executive order forbidding the whipping of convicts anywhere in the State. The rumors said that some wardens had substituted punishments even worse than the lash.

The committee was composed of three or four very pleasant companions. We traveled in the personal car of one member. We spent about 10 days in South Georgia. We tried, as well as we could, never to divulge which camp we would visit next, so that no warden could be forewarned of our arrival. We dodged across and up and down South Georgia in erratic manner.

Some Bad, Some Good

We discovered some punishments which were just as vicious instruments of torture as rumor had indicated. But only in a few camps.

On the other hand, we found camps where, if you didn't mind the disgrace, if you had no objection to going through life with the label "ex-convict" on your record, a sentence served there would be no worse than a pleasant camping vacation.

We found some places with conditions unfit for discussion in the public prints.

We ate at many camps, when we arrived around meal time, and we always ate at the prisoners' mess, insisting that we be served only the same food, in quality and quantity both, the convicts got. Some camps offered food I couldn't possibly eat. On such occasions I went hungry.

Others, though, were good and appetizing and satisfying. I'll never forget one meal at a camp 'way down near the Florida line. I've seldom eaten a finer meal. Homemade country sausage. Three vegetables, all raised on the county farm. Hot biscuits that could serve as standard ideal for any cook.

And a wedge of pie that was in the same class as the biscuits. But that was an exceptional camp.

Natural Drift

One condition we discovered. The best-behaved prisoners, on the general average, were found in the pleasantest camps, while the tough places were, chiefly, populated by the toughest convicts.

This was a natural tendency. If a recalcitrant, "bad" prisoner was sent to one of the easy, pleasant camps and didn't behave himself, the warden just wouldn't keep him. Send him back to the State Prison Board for reassignment. The Board, thereupon, would assign him to a camp with a tougher warden, one more apt to forcefully control the rebel.

Three or four such moves and the toughest convict would find himself in the toughest camp.

Like the one where every man wore heavy chains wrapped around his waist and shoulders, to handicap him by weight if he tried to run away, and where more than half the prisoners carried the scars of shotgun wounds received in escape attempts.

I repeat, though, I found many camps where life could be pleasant.

For the well-behaved, quiet prisoner who only wanted to "work out his time" with the least possible trouble to himself and all concerned.

Glynn Trial Reveals High Penal Crimes

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

State's So-Called Progressive Plans Under Public Eye

Sun. 11-2-47

By MARION E. JACKSON

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—(SNS) — The trial of a former prison camp warden and four ex-guards here in the Glynn County Courthouse has focused nationwide attention on savage and barbaric violation of the Georgia penal codes.

This shocking state of affairs in the penal administration of Georgia convica camps and prison has been convict camps and prisons has been spotlighted in the testimony of witnesses appearing in the Federal Civil Rights trial of Warden H. B. Worthy, and Guards Remer Bazemore, H. L. Holmes, Guy McNabb and W. L. Lawler, who are accused under federal law of depriving their victims of their civil rights as guaranteed while in the custody of the state.

One of the most flagrant violations of the state penal codes is in the use of the outlawed "sweat box" which is described as a structure 8 by 12 feet with a few holes in the door for ventilation. The device has a cement floor although lacking in light. Sun. 11-2-47

SEVERE DAMAGE

Responsible authorities have repeatedly acknowledged that men placed in such a structures were subjected to various physical and mental terrors which could result in severe damage to health and sanity.

Full knowledge of the "unofficial sanction" given the outmoded, outdated and medieval instrument of torture, as revealed in the testimony of Dr. W. P. McDaniel, camp physician at the Anquilla Prison Camp, which revealed that he inspected the "solitary confinement" and found it detrimental "to the health only" if the prisoners stayed too long.

Georgia Jails, Past and Present

By John Hudson Jones

"One star in de east
One star in de west
An' betwixt de two dey ain' nevah no rest!"

—An old Georgia prison chant.

LONG BEFORE the weekend massacre of eight Negro prisoners in the Brunswick, Georgia, stockade, that state's prisons had a horrible record of murder and brutality. No man will ever know how many were shot and tortured to death by sadistic guards but a few of the more recent cases were brought to light around 1934.

Georgia convict system sprang directly from the vi- anti-Negro, counter-revolutionary movement of the eholders just after the Civil War.

One of their attacks against the freedmen was wholesale arrests on spurious drunk charges. So that by 1866 the prisoners were filled to overflowing.

Daily Worker - N.Y.

THE POST CIVIL-WAR Georgia officials were astute businessmen also. So in that year they began "leasing" convicts to public works contractors. In 1874 a law was passed permitting private individuals to secure the "leases."

Then in 1879 the law changed permitting three newly organized companies to lease the prisoners for a period of 20 years. Some of the state's businessmen and politicos were in on the companies and agreed to pay the state $500,000 in 20 yearly installments.

The prisoners mined coal, built railroads, tapped trees for turpentine, farmed huge estates, and a hundred other tasks. A search of prison and camp records shows that over a 50 year period 99 per cent of the prisoners were Negroes.

The state made some pretense at protecting the prisoners, but soon stories of horrible tortures began leaking out. Sweat boxes, leg irons, chain gangs, bull whips and trigger happy brutal guards killed and maimed untold numbers.

Thurs. 7-17-47

A PARTICULARLY terrible feature was the "Cage." A huge boxcar sized cage on wheels with steel wire for sides. Prisoners were herded into it like jungle beasts

A little hole in the floor served as a toilet, with an old tubk or oil can on the ground. In the sizzling Georgia summer flies and mosquitoes would feed on the refuse then bite and crawl on the men inside the cage.

From time to time investigations were made, and some of the companies fined, as in 1896 when Gov. Atkinson fined the Dade County coal mining company $2,500 for extreme cruelty to their prisoners. Then the laws were changed in 1897 to permit counties the right of leasing. By this method the state still collected from $200,000 to $300,000 a year, while the prisoners continued to lose their lives and health.

When the late Eugene Talmadge became governor in the early thirties the stench of Georgia's prisons again floated over the country. One of the most dramatic exposes of them was "I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang" written in 1932 by Robert E. Burns, a white convict who escaped to New Jersey. 7-17-47

That same year John L. Spivak wrote "Georgia Nigger," based on a personal tour of prison camps and chain gangs. These two men presented the full horror of the sub-human treatment given the prisoners both white and Negro. The nation was revolted and Talmadge was swept out of office by the young liberal Ellis Arnall.

Thu 7-17-47

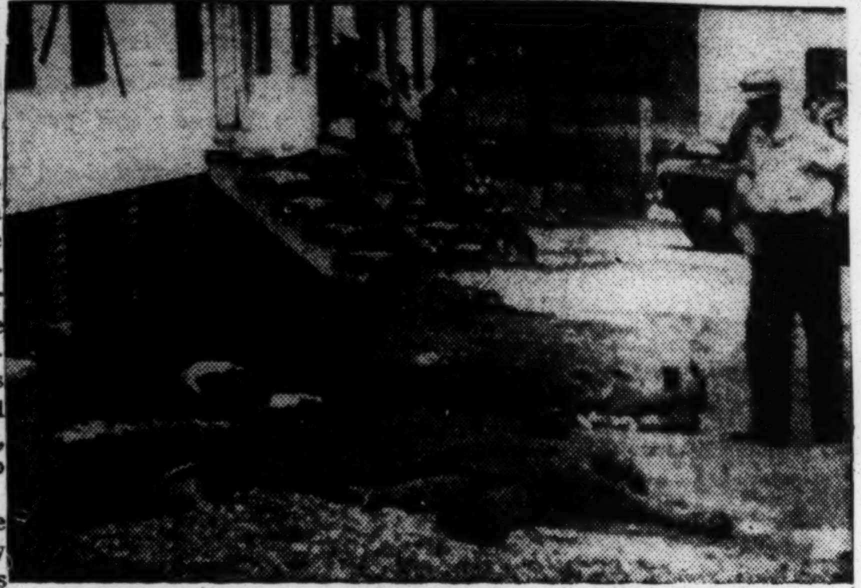
ARNALL put through laws that supposedly banished shackles, chain gangs, whipping posts, sweat boxes, cages and other torture evices. But still tales of torture ave continued to leak out.

When the guards shot down the ight men in cold blood Friday the old traditions of Georgia prisons were once again revealed as real. The Negroes accused the guards of working them in snake-infested swamp land. They protested, and Warden W. G. Worthy according to the men, in a drunken rage incited the guards to fire upon the helpless men with shotguns and pistols.

Thus the ghost of "Old Gene" still marches for son Herman announced the formation of a new white supremcay" outfit just after he was kicked out of the Georgia State House he took over when the old man died. Thu 7-17-

It's all related. Just before "Old ene" was "elected" Governor st year two Negro couples were ynched on a lonely Monroe County Road. Now the prison massacre

Somebody's carrying out "Old Gene's plans.



Bodies of four of the Negroes slain at Brunswick, Ga., are shown above. Warden W. G. Worthy, left, who led the massacre, was described by prisoners to have been raging drunk.

14g 1947

Kentucky

Gymnasium Will Allow Prisoners 'To Blow Off Steam Rather Than . . . Blow Out of Jail'

Courier-Journal - Louisville, Ky.

14g Ky.

Inmates to Get Better Clothes And Hot Meals

Louisville's most exclusive athletic club will begin operation tomorrow.

A modern gymnasium, where inmates of Jefferson County Jail can burn surplus energy by pounding punching bags and one another, has been installed on the second floor of the jail.

Repainted a brilliant green and white, the 40x60-foot room also has facilities for basketball, handball, indoor baseball, shuffleboard, volleyball, and other indoor games.

Sunday

A Dungeon No More

The gymnasium, along with a new kitchen, laundry, elevator, library, and a general overhauling of the entire building, has completed a metamorphosis of the institution from a gloomy, dirty dungeon to a modern County jail.

11-2-47

Jailer George Barry said the idea behind the rejuvenation program is to allow prisoners to "blow off steam in recreation rather than have them attempt to blow out of jail in desperation."

"It won't be so nice that prisoners will lose sight of the fact they are being punished by confinement, but at least they will be treated as human beings and eat food intended for human consumption," the jailer said.

Guard Will Supervise Play

Prisoners will use the gymnasium by the hour, 30 at a time, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At nights trusties will divide time with women prisoners.

A guard familiar with boxing and other athletics will be hired to supervise play and, after prisoners learn the ring art, matches will be staged at night to determine champions by weight.

Cold meals are out under a new system started yesterday. New steam tables loaded with warm food and coffee bring three meals each day to cells by the way of elevators installed recently.

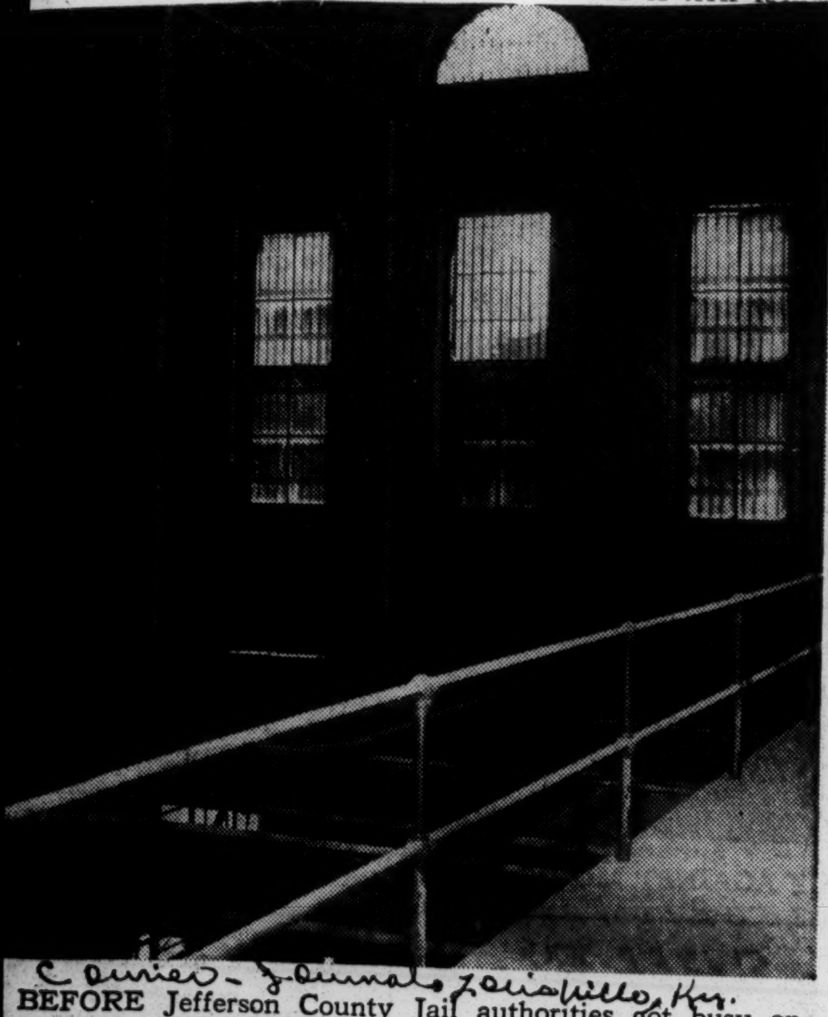
Women Will Do Chores

A new laundry system will keep women prisoners busy with daily washing, ironing and mending of uniforms and bed clothing. Brown fatigue dresses such as were worn by the Wacs during the war have been purchased for women inmates.

11-2-47

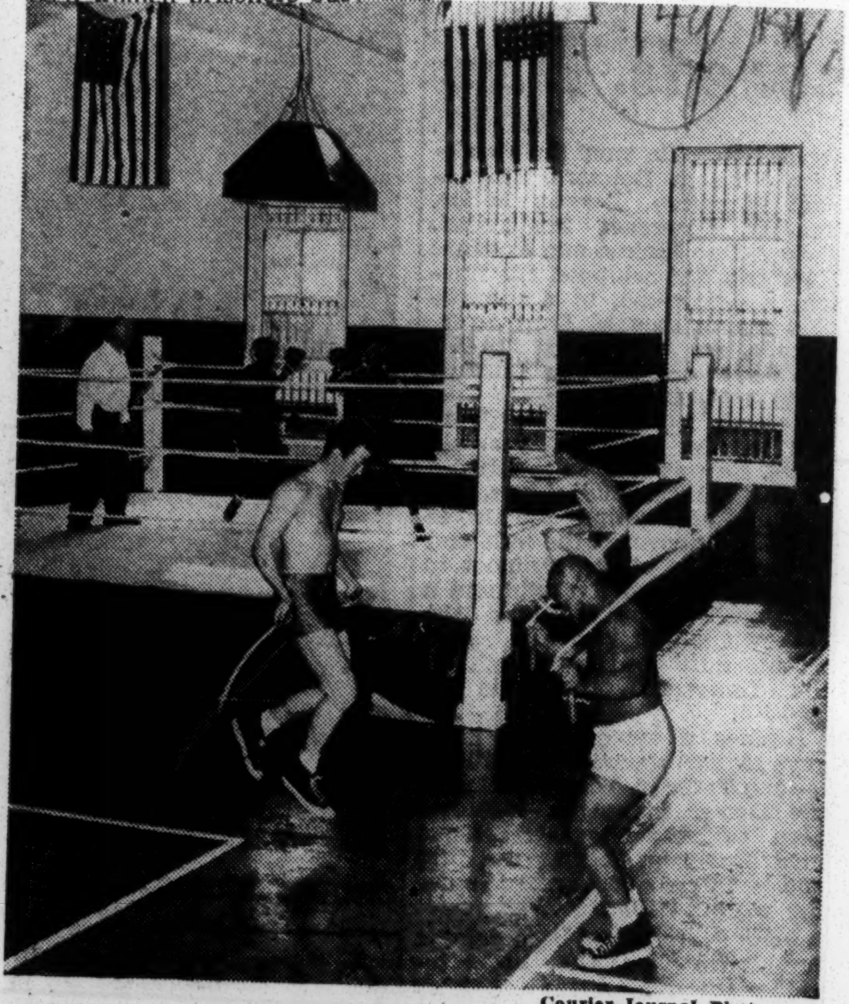
The second-floor library has been stocked with books selected to improve the education of prisoners.

Several church leaders inspected the new installations last night.



Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

BEFORE Jefferson County Jail authorities got busy on this second-floor room, it appeared to be just what it was —a gloomy, apparently useless space.



14g/47

Courier-Journal Photos.

AFTER workers had left, the room had been transformed into a modern gymnasium. Jailer George Berry is shown refereeing a match between two prisoners.

14g 1947 Pennsylvania

Pa. Prison Upset Not 'Race Riot'

PHILADELPHIA

There was absolutely no reason to label a recent fight among prisoners at Moyamensing Prison as a "race riot," Dr. Frederick S. Baldi, superintendent of county prisons, declared Friday.

The prison official asserted rather heatedly that the daily newspapers had taken the riot slant on the incident as a "subterfuge" to stir up racial trouble.

Injured in the melee, last Monday, involving about eight men, were two white prisoners who were acting as hospital orderlies.

Had Beaten Prisoners

They were beaten when they used force to subdue a mentally disturbed colored prisoner who became unruly as he was led to the exercise yard.

Guards quickly quelled the disturbance, Dr. Baldi said. The fight was not disclosed until the next day when the white prisoners, brothers, appeared in Federal Court with their faces and arms bandaged. Sat. 5-31-47

The real trouble, Dr. Baldi said, lies in the fact that Moyamensing, located at 10th and Reed Sts., is overcrowded and understaffed.

As far as possible, colored and white prisoners at Moyamensing and the other county prison at Holmesburg are segregated.

Only One-Third White

There are approximately 900 prisoners at Moyamensing, two-thirds, or 600 of them colored. The ratio is even heavier at Holmesburg, about 8-2.

Dr. Baldi turned down a request of the AFRO to make a tour of both prisons for a first-hand look at conditions.

While he had no personal objections, the superintendent said, it was contrary to the wishes of the Board of Prison Inspectors and the Board of Judges. He said similar requests had been refused the daily papers.

Youth Beaten On Prison Farm Wants State Investigation

(14g) South Carolina The Lighthouse and Inf

Sun-8-17-47

(From The Lighthouse and Informer August 25, 1940. ~~Second in a sesies of previously published stories on the South Carolina penal farm beating)~~

EDITOR NOTE: Only Negro prisoners are placed on State prison farms. Dessasure state farm No. 1 and Reid's farm, state farm No. 2 are about 45 miles north of Columbia near Boykins, S. C. Stephen Davis wrote a lamentable story of his experience at Reid's farm which was reprinted in this paper last week. Joseph Terry, released from Dessasure farm tells a sickening story of how he was whipped at gun point and abused. Columbia, S.C.

Given 200 severe lashes with a five pound leather strap prisoners call the "bull-tongue," during seven months and seventeen days at Dessasure prison farm and, nursing two wounds of the right shoulder blade covering two and five inches each, Joseph Terry 23-year-old, "A" street youth, is puzzled, and scared Puzzled because his discharge slip credits him with four months and thirteen days suspended for "good behavior" while he was whipped six time on the farm. And scared less he be sent back for telling what he went through. Lighthouse & Informer

Terry went to the farm from Charleston. He was sentenced to 12 months for taking an ice pick from a white assailant and using it on him after being stabbed without provocation by his assailant. He entered the farm January 13, 1940; left July 31, 1940. Sun-8-17-47

MADE TO LOWER TROUSERS

About March 15 he became entangled in vines and fell while his detail worked in the woods. Because this made him a few seconds late he was forced to lower his trousers at rifle point, lie fat on his stomach and take twenty-five lashes with the "bull-tongue." Between April 10-15 he was given 40 more because he wasn't throwing dirt 25 feet from where he was digging May 10 he received another 40 because someone left a "skip" in a row of cotton and he was blamed. May 24 another whipping of 40 lashes was administered because he accidentally chopped up a hill of cotton. Three days later May 27 he was given a brutal 40 more which cut his back and left him bleeding from several wounds, two severe, and spent 215 lashes, lightest of all whippings, were given June 27 because he wasn't keeping up with other prisoners. (the guard being "light" because of the wounds he bore on his back. Four of these were admininstered by "copper" (guard) Tom and the other two by "copper" Thornhill. 8-17-47 Sun,

In Terry's own words are pictures of sufferings prisoners undergo: "Henry Manigault of Charleston 'monkeyed' while we were shucking oats a few weeks ago. As he fell to the ground copper Thornhill fired his rifle in the ground by his head and told him: 'n----r if you don't get on yuor feet I swear to God I'll kill you.' Marion Davis from somewhere up the state, reported he was sick one Saturday morning. Copper Bush felt his pulse and said he was all right, but Davis continued to complain. When no one would heed his plea he sleshed himself with a razor Sunday night in an effort to end his life.

"Most pathetic of all prisoners is Melvin Mitchell of 157 St. Philip St. He has done 11 or a 30 year sentence. In 1935 or 1936 he was shot in the left thigh, for trying to escape. As a result he is half crippled and walks with difficulty. The chains make it more difficult. But if he drops back an inch he is flogged and, always given twice the number of other prisoners. The (guards) says that Mitchell had pleaded with former Governor Blackwood to investigate conditions on the farm The superintendent had lost his job and every guard blames him for it. Columbia, S.C.

"I saw a copper flog Thomas Graham nearly to death, simply because the boy asked to be allowed to go to the toilet. The copper told him to wait and amused himself what would happen to Graham he couldn' get to a toilet. The whipping was given because Graham continued to plead.

"It is a crime to say 'yes sir' and 'no sir' to a copper. You must say 'yowsah' and 'nawsah' as they want you to. If you should slip and say 'yes sir' they will whip you good for trying to be educated.

'You mustn't look when the copper is beating you. You must keep your face to the ground. If you raise your head the copper with the rifle on you (beatings are done in pairs: one whips and the other holds the rife on the prisoner) is just as apt to shoot you as not. Another thing, you must take your hat off while talking to a guard or whenever the superintendent is mentioned. Col. Glenn is in charge of the farm. Sun-8-17-47

"The guards (coppers)--eight in all--are unusually hard on prisoners from Charleton county. Just why, I don't know, unless it is they don't like officials in Charleston county.

"I am telling this story with the hope state officials and other interested persons will have it investigated. I was fortunate to live thru it and thank God for protecting me. But there are others there now in a Hell more fantastic than can be pictured by the most vivid imagination. I don't believe the state intends to have its colored citizens and prisoners treated in such manner."

NAACP Seeks To Learn If Aged Man Died Of Neglect In County Jail

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
Thurs. 2-13-47

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(SNS)— A full investigation into circumstances surrounding the death of Fratis "Snow" White about 55, in the "dungeon" of the Richland county jail early last Thursday morning, was announced as beginning by the South Carolina Conference of NAACP Monday.

Funeral services for the dead man were tentatively scheduled for Friday of this week, more than one week after his death. Without known relatives, the final rites were being arranged by an estranged common-law wife and was to be paid for largely out of social security funds.

Meanwhile, James M. Hinton, state NAACP president, said complete details may be collected by mid-week and, if these warranted, the matter would be placed before authorities for whatever action deemed necessary.

TOLD OF "ROOT MAN"

A jail inmate, since released, told The Lighthouse and Informer that the dead man was admitted near mid-night Wednesday. In conversations which followed he related that a man who had been "hanging around my house" had him jailed on a threat charge.

The dead man is reported to have related that for some reason, not clear to him, the man in question, whom he said was a "root doctor" had hung around his home, which is on the old State Park road near Conder's stables and had left a dozen white eggs and a small bottle filled with "black medicine" on his front porch late Tuesday night as he fled the premises when the deceased got out of bed and came to the door.

Knowing the "root" man, he is reported to have warned him on Wednesday that he would deliver bodily harm if he caught him around his house again. The man is said to have sworn out a warrant later, which, according to his version, resulted in his arrest.

SUFFERS ATTACKS

The 'eyewitnesses' said that about an hour after the man was admitted, he began to foam at the mouth and breakout in superfluous sweating. Asked if he were ill, he is reported to have explained he suffered from high blood pressure and heart attacks, and was having one then. The eyewitness said he lifted himself on his cell door and there quivered so that the door rattled and a guard came and ordered him to lie down.

According to the witness, the guard dismissed his statement of being ill and told him nothing was wrong with him and if he didn't go back and lie down, he would be given a beating.

THROWN IN "DUNGEON"

The old man complied ,this witness said, but a little later had another attack. This time guards took him out of the cell and placed him in what prisoners call the "dungeon," described as a padded cell without light and only a minimum of air, feeding in from air holes at the top. It is described as practically sound proof and three who entered it Thursday morning to lift the dead body out, said its stench and odor was enough to kill a normallly healthy person.

Guards are said to have told the man then that if they heard a sound from the almost sound proof cell, they would string him up by his hands. But he remained quiet, the witness said and about three Thursday morning he was heard to groan several times and then grew quiet.

FOUND DEAD

When guards made their rounds Thursday morning, the witness said they found the old man dead. Three other prisoners (names withheld) were called to lift the body out into the front office.

UNEXPLAINED MARK

White's body exhibits an unexplained mark on the head which suggests he struck and injured it while falling or was struck by some thing. However, no indication is given that he was beaten while in the prison. The blow could have been made before commitment to the jail.

Thurs. 2-13-47

Up to Monday afternoon no certificate of death had been issued for him and the matter was not reported in local newspaper.

Mr. Hinton said facts in the case ought to be established out of fairness to both the dead man's interests and jail authorities.

S.C. Group Probes Death of Man, 55, in County Prison

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 2-22-47

COLUMBIA, S.C. — (ANP)— An investigation into the mysterious death of 55-year-old Fratis (Snow) White in the dungeon of the Richland County jail here recently was being pushed by the State Conference of NAACP.

Sat. 2-22-47

James M. Hinton - State NAACP president, said preliminary reports indicated that White, jailed on a warrant after allegedly threatening a man he said kept hanging about his house, had died of neglect and acts of jail authorities.

S. C. Governor Urges Sheriffs to Protect Prisoners

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Sat. 6-28-47

COLUMBIA, S. C. — (ANP)— Gov. Thurmond, constitutional head of all the state's law enforcing agencies, recently sent a letter to all sheriffs praising them for their "fine record" as law enforcement officers, and urging them to maintain that record by protecting those in their custody.

If at any time the safety of a prisoner should be in doubt, said the governor, a sheriff should not "hestitate to use the constabulary, other law enforcement officers in the vicinity, and, if necessary, civilians by posse comitatus."

Prisoners might be brought to the state penitentiary, continued the governor, "at any time of the day or night" without first having to obtain transfer papers. "Transfer them first, and we will take care of the necessary papers later. Penitentiary officials have been informed of this and you will find them most cooperative at all times." Sat. 6-28-47

PROBE DEATH IN S. C. JAIL

Sat. 2-22-47
14 Pittsburgh Pa. Courier

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP) — An investigation into the mysterious death of 55-year-old Fratis (Snow) White in the dungeon of the Richland county jail here Thursday morning was being pushed this week by the State Conference of NAACP.

James M. Hinton, State NAACP president, said preliminary reports indicated that White, jailed on a warrant Wednesday after allegedly threatening a man he said kept hanging around his house, had died of neglect and acts of jail authorities. Sat. 2-22-47

An eyewitness in the county jail at the time said White was committed near midnight and an hour later suffered a heart attack. Authorities ignored his pleas for medical attention, contending he was "faking" and ordered him to lie down on the cell cot.

'No Plans' On Penitentiary, Says Governor

Columbia S.C.
Record
Tues. 7/29/47

Gov. J. Strom Thurmond told his news conference today that he had "no plans" for the state penitentiary at this time.

14 S.C.

He was asked for comment on a report by Superintendent Wyndham M. Manning of the state penitentiary of alleged beatings of prisoners at the Boykin prison farm.

Manning described the state's prison system as "antiquated" because of a lack of facilities for segregating prisoners and because there was no rehabilitation program.

Tues. 7/29/47

Manning's report said that guards at the prison farm were compelled to use "considerable force" to quell a "riot" of prisoners.

"There is some merit in Manning's position," Thurmond said, "and I will probably have some recommendations by the time the legislature meets" next January.

Asked if he had any statement in reply to a letter from John H. McCray, Columbia Negro newspaper editor who wrote him last week and requested an investigation of reported beatings at the prison farm. Thurmond said McCray gave the letter "to the newspapers" before it reached him and McCray coud now get his answer "from the newspapers."

Negro Editor Asks Action On Beatings

Columbia Record
Columbia, S.C.
Wed. 7/30/47

Guards at the state prison farm at Boykin should "repay in full" for beatings they administered to several prisoners recently, Negro editor John H. McCray of Columbia wrote Gov. J. Strom Thurmond today, suggesting the need for prison reforms.

14 S.C.

Yesterday Thurmond said he had "no plans" for the prison system.

Complimenting Superintendent Wyndham M. Manning of the penitentiary and his report to the governor on the beatings, McCray took exception to the report's lack of "recommendations as to disposal of the guards."

Says Guards Defended

"In fact," McCray said, "the report forgives and defends them and would rationalize that 'because we have failed to provide the necessary means with which to handle incorrigable prisoners, it is proper and legal to ignore the law and write out our own regulations.'"

Manning in his report said that lack of facilities for segregating prisoners resulted in what he termed a riot at the Boykin farm, which guards found necessary to quell by the use of leather straps.

"This is substantially the same condition which has existed to our knowledge for at least 15 years," McCray continued. "In 1943 . . . several of the involved guards were dismissed. And there is nothing now more definite than new orders to halt beatings. . . .

Fault Of Whole State

"It is just such temporizing as this which constantly brings ridicule upon the state."

McCray said his interest in the matter was that "of a small but sincere citizen who sees the condition not as the fault of the present governor or superintendent, maybe not even of the predecessors, but rather as the fault of all South Carolinians, the majority of whom know not of the conditions and who would support and order the necessary reforms were the facts available." [illegible]

Prison Superintendent Okays Beating Inmates

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 8-16-47

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)—The brutal beating of five prisoners by guards at Boykin State Prison farm on July 13 was termed as "necessary" by Col. Wyndham M. Manning, superintendent of the State's penal system, in a report made to Gov. J. Strong Thurmond, here Thursday.

According to the superintendent's report the guards took drastic action to quell a near riot "participated in by five homo-sexual prisoners who fought over their male paramours."

The superintendent was asked to make a report on the incident following a protest from John H. McCray, local newspaper editor, to the effect that he had been informed prisoners were beaten by guards and trustees on the Kershaw County farm.

CALLED NECESSARY

"In quelling this riot," the superintendent wrote, "it was necessary for the guards to use considerable force. The prisoners, on being privately questioned by me, said that leather straps were used, but they denied that sticks were used. At my request, Dr. M. S. Kirk, prison physician at the farm, examined these men and found no cuts, abrasions, bruises or other sings of undue severity. Sat 8-16-47

"The prisoners themselves did not claim before me that they were injured. Private talks with other prisoners do not disclose any considerable cruelties or undue harshness on the part of the guards.

PRISON HEAD CONDONES GUARDS WHO CLUBBED AND BEAT NEGROES

The Black Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla.

Blames Outmoded Penal System For Lack Of Control Over Convicts

(149)

Sat 8-16-47

THINKS BLACKS TREATED ALL RIGHT

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Sat-8-16-47

"The prisoners themselves did not claim before me that they were injured. Private talks with other prisoners do not disclose any considerable cruelties or undue harshness on the part of the guards."

McCray, in pointing out that the report admits the beatings and draws the conclusion that "no evidence of brutality nor sadism" on the part of the guards can be found, despite state law outlawing corporal punishment, declared "It tends to justify the beatings in terms of failure of the state to prepare necessary punitive provisions at the farm, and is at the same time, saying 'because we have no jails we are justified in beating every suspect.'

"There is no defense for making men, at gun point, strip their clothing and submit to lashings under color of law. This is both repulsive and sadistic, no matter how sweet the terms used to cover it."

Sat-8-16-47

Manning held that the physical setup of the state farms "presents many difficult problems," chief of which is the fact that no adequate means for confining and punishing disorderly or recalcitrant prisoners are available.

"It is realized that the inbiction of corporal punishment upon prisoners (but not upon school children) is forbidden by our constitution; and because it is contrary to the law, positive action has been taken to make sure that restriction is observed by all employees of the penitentiary in the future, regardless of what may have occurred in the past."

He pointed out that the state has no provision for separating incorrigibles from those who are susceptible of rehabilitation, and that there are scarcely any facilities for training inmates in trades and vocations.

Sat-8-16-47

Advocating the transformation of the farms from labor camps into diversified farms, he said the present system is "well adapted to making hardened criminals out of youngsters who, though they have made mistakes and must be confined, are not criminals at heart."

Probe Mystery Death Of Man In South Carolina Dungeon

149

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 2-22-47

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Sat. 2-22-47

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Sat. 2-22-47

An eyewitness, in the county jail at the time, said White was committed near midnight and an hour later suffered a heart attack. Authorities ignored his pleas for medical attention, contending he was "faking" and, ordered him to lie down on the cell cot.

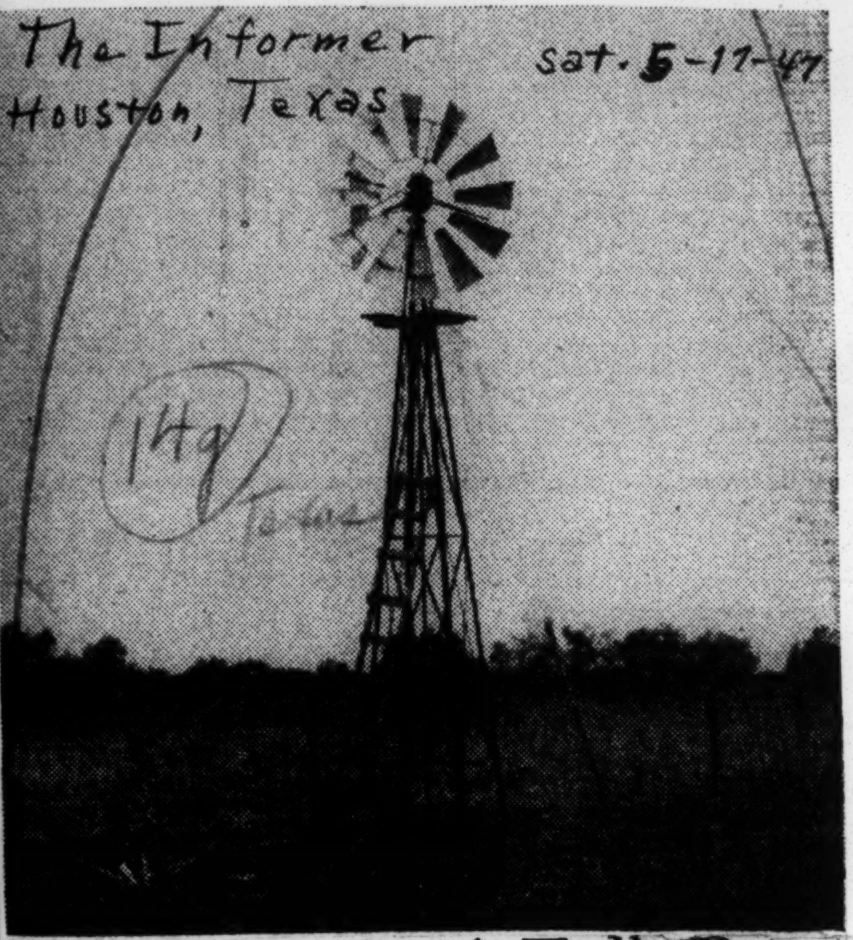
When a second attack came some minutes later, the witness said, authorities threw the aged, ill man in the stench-filed, almost air tight "dungeon" in the jail. Heard to groan several times, the man was found dead by jailers Thursday morning.

Bereft of known relatives, his remains lay in a local funeral home for more than a week before an estranged common-law wife would arrange a funeral through social security benefits.

NAACP quarters said strange in the case was the fact that a week after the death, no certificate of death had been issued nor a report of the death made in local newspapers.

The Informer
Houston, Texas
Sat. 5-17-47

14g Texas



Windmills Can't Talk, But If They Could

The Informer
Houston, Texas
Sat. 5-17-47

14g Texas

HOUSTON—Windmills are made of metal and wood and the like. They are man-made things, designed to furnish power to operate pumps and flour mills.

Windmills can't talk.

But if they could, then feature a windmill sitting on the witness stand in criminal district court. Imagine a windmill testifying that an officer of the law handcuffed a defendant to its trestle and beat the alleged criminal into admitting he committed some vicious crime—like rape, murder, or robbery by firearms.

Windmills are lifeless. They are contraptions of sails and fans and shafts and flyers and towers. They turn with the wind, but they cannot breathe nor feel nor see.

And windmills cannot talk.

But if they could, then they would probably tell of how they occupy a portion of some farm doing their bit to help the farmer perform his daily chores. There is one "exceptional" mill, however, that would not tell a story as simple as would be told by the majority of the mills. This particular windmill is located in the middle of a field near the Fort Bend-Harris county line, and if subponaed as a witness in many former criminal trials, would tell a story similar to one of these:

1. "A group of deputy sheriffs (or maybe a Texas ranger, city policeman, or some other officer of the law) drove the defendant out to where I am located. The officers handcuffed the defendant to my leg post and beat him unmercifully. They beat him until he said he was guilty of the offense of which he stood charged."

Or this—

2. "I am just an ordinary windmill like all the others. I spend my time in helping the farmer. The charges made by the defense are without foundation. I am just an ordinary windmill."

Let us here in clarification, review some of the famous "windmill cases."

During the past year several men convicted of murder, rape and other crimes have contended in behalf of their defense, that they were taken to a certain windmill located in the middle of a field off the South Main Road, and beaten by officers into admitting crimes of which they did not commit. Sat. 5-17-47

To each of these "windmill beating" allegations, the officers involved have sworn under oath that the charges were untrue and incredulous.

Most recently, the defendants who testified they were taken to the "famous" windmill were Charles Jackson, convicted last November 7 of killing Patrolman Howard B. Hammond and sentenced to life in prison; and Wilson Moore, found guilty of criminally assaulting a 16-year-old white girl, and assessed the death penalty May 7, of this year.

During the course of Jackson's trial, he testified that he was taken to the windmill, handcuffed, and then beaten by a homicide lieutenant and detective inspector until he was unconscious, before he finally admitted killing the police officer.

14g Texas

Moore said he was taken within sight of the windmill, told by officers that if he reached the machine he would do "50 years in 20 minutes" and never see his wife and child again. The defendant added that it was at this phase of the officers' investigation that he consented to sign a written statement admitting the rape.

Both Jackson and Moore gave this approximate location of the mill. They said it was located in the middle of a field, off a little dirt road near the county line on South Main.

A snooping, investigation trip by an Informer reporter and photographer this week revealed that there is a windmill situated in the field testified by the several defendants, during their respective trials held recently.

This windmill is easy to find.

Sat. 5-17-47

You get in your automobile, drive out Main street. Presently you'll come to the underpass. But continue on 'til you pass the Fort Bend-Harris county line.

Drive on. And pretty soon you'll reach the dirt road—turn there. Pass the old wrecked truck and automobile. Drive on pass the desolated shed and two-story frame house.

Drive on. But when you reach the cotton patch stop your car and walk down the turn row. You'll be able to see the windmill then. You just walk several hundred paces and you'll be right there at it.

It stands in the middle of a pasture, enclosed by barbed wire fence. It just stands there old and rusted and still. Its fan is not turning for it is broken and worn.

This old windmill could well be "the windmill" that has been discussed so heatedly in district courts, but no one will ever know if peace officers have beaten men into confessions there, or at any other windmill, because windmills are lifeless man-made machines.

Windmills can't talk.

Clergy Ask Probe Of Cruelty To Prison Inmates

The Informer
Houston, Texas

Houtson —The Baptist ministers Tuesday, asked investigation into reports of cruelties being practiced on prisoners at the Clemmens State farm at Brazoria. The ministers appointed a committee to go before the local branch NAACP to see what can be done about the reports.

14g Texas Sat. 5-3-47

According to the reports the mistreatment of the men involves a guard who is reported to be suffering from a nervous condition due, possibily to his war experiences. The attention of the ministers was attracted to the reports when a letter from one of the prisoners was received by one of the ministers. The prisoner asked that something be done to prevent further acts of brutality. Some of the men were being subjeced to.